OSPREY
PUBLISHING

The German Army 1939–45 (3)

Eastern Front 1941–43

Nigel Thomas • Illustrated by Stephen Andrew

Men-at-Arms · 326

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Series editor Martin Windrow

First published in Great Britain in 1999 by Osprey Publishing,
Elms Court, Chapel Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LP, UK
Email: info@ospreypublishing.com

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ISBN 1 85532 795 3

Series Editor: MARTIN WINDROW

Military Editor: Nikolai Bogdanovic
Design: Black Spot

Origination by Valhaven Ltd., Isleworth, UK
Printed in China through World Print Ltd

02 03 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

FOR A CATALOGUE OF ALL BOOKS PUBLISHED BY
OSPREY MILITARY AND AVIATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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WI 54020-0001, USA.
Email: info@ospreydirectusa.com

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TITLE PAGE **A second gunner from the Großdeutschland Motorised Division struggles with four ammunition boxes for the section light machine-gun, carrying two boxes in his hands with two more strapped over his shoulder. He wears the M1942 padded winter overclothing with a scarf and balaclava under his uncamouflaged M1935 steel helmet. (Friedrich Herrmann)**

Dedication

This book is respectfully dedicated to my late father, War Substantive Lieutenant William Rowland Thomas, Royal Fusiliers, and the late Oberfeldarzt a.D. Dr Med. Friedrich Herrmann, formerly of 198.Infanterie-Division and the Bundeswehr – two men from whom I have learnt a lot.

Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without the generous help of many people, especially Stephen Andrew, Mark Axworthy, Dušan Babac, Phillip Buss MA, Josef Charita, Brian Davis, Dr Friedrich Herrmann, David Littlejohn, Krunoslav Mikulan, Darko Pavlović, Henry Rüütel, and Pierre C.T. Verheye.
The author would like to thank his family, Heather, Alexander and Dominick, for their continued support and encouragement.

Key to abbreviation of German ranks

Untergefreiter **(Ugfr.)**	Oberleutnant **(Oblt.)**
Gefreiter **(Gfr.)**	Hauptmann **(Hptm.)**
Obergefreiter **(Ogfr.)**	Rittmeister **(Rtm.)**
Unteroffizier **(Uffz.)**	Major **(Maj.)**
Unterfeldwebel **(Ufw.)**	Oberstleutnant **(Obstlt.)**
Feldwebel **(Fw.)**	Oberst **(Obst.)**
Oberfeldwebel **(Ofw.)**	Generalmajor **(Gen.Maj.)**
Hauptfeldwebel **(Hfw.)**	Generalleutnant **(Gen.Lt.)**
Stabsfeldwebel **(Stfw.)**	General **(Gen.)**
Leutnant **(Ltn.)**	Generaloberst **(Gen.Obst.)**
Stabsgefreiter **(Stgfr.)**	Generalfeldmarschall **(GFM)**

GERMAN ARMY 1939–45 (3) EASTERN FRONT 1941–3

THE CONTEXT OF THE EASTERN FRONT

The High Command of the army and Wehrmacht 1941–3

As head of state, Adolf Hitler had (since 4 February 1938) held the nominal post of Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (Oberster Befehlshaber der Wehrmacht). He became convinced that his own intellect and experience, as a regimental messenger in the First World War, had granted him a unique insight into military strategy. He continued to ignore GFM Wilhelm Keitel, as Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht, the OKW) the senior professional soldier, but now even overruled the strategic and tactical decisions of the Army High Command (Oberkommando des Heeres, or OKH) and did not disguise his contempt for the generals. This dysfunctional relationship further deteriorated in late November 1941, when the German advance, which Hitler had predicted would be unstoppable, ground to a halt before Moscow. Hitler blamed the generals and on 19 December 1941 dismissed GFM Walther von Brauchitsch, the Chief of the Army High Command (Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres), taking over his post. Within six months thirty-nine more top commanders, including Gen.Obst. Heinz Guderian, the architect of *Blitzkrieg*, had been dismissed.

Hitler moved from Berlin to the 'Wolf's Lair' in Rastenburg (now Katrzyn), East Prussia, then in July 1942 to Vinnitsa in occupied Ukraine. He directed military operations isolated from the Army High Command and surrounded by the generals of its rival, the OKW, led by General der Artillerie Alfred Jodl, the Chief of the Armed Forces Operations Staff (Chef der Wehrmachtführungsamt) and Keitel's nominal deputy. Now Hitler's military advisers were easily dominated 'yes-men' such as General der Infanterie Kurt Zeitzler, who on 24 September 1942 replaced Brauchitsch's deputy, Gen.Obst. Franz Halder, as Chief of the Army General Staff (Chef des Generalstabes des Heeres).

The strategy

On 23 August 1939 Hitler had concluded an alliance of convenience with the Soviet dictator Stalin to protect Germany's eastern borders during the 1939–40 western campaign. Nevertheless the Soviet Union remained Germany's arch-enemy, and on 18 December 1940 Hitler announced that Operation Barbarossa, the attack on the Soviet Union, would commence on 15 May 1941, a date postponed to 22 June 1941 by the invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece. It would be the biggest conflict in military history, with some three million German troops and about

The German officer's service uniform remained virtually unchanged from March 1935 to May 1945. Walther von Brauchitsch, Chief of the Army High Command from 1 September 1939 to 19 December 1941, was one of the nine generals to be promoted Generalfeldmarschall by Hitler on 19 July 1940 in a move designed to devalue the importance of the German army's highest rank. He wears the M1935 officer's service peaked cap with bluish dark green cap band, gold wire pipings and chin cords and matt aluminium eagle, cockade and wreath. His M1935 officer's field tunic has a bluish dark green collar, bright red collar patches with the two-leaf *Alt-Larisch* design for general officers, gold buttons, cloth loops for his medal ribbons, a gold hand-embroidered breast-eagle on a bluish dark green facing cloth backing, and gold-silver-gold plaited shoulder boards on a bright red backing with a silver crossed marshal's batons. He wears the Knight's Cross around his neck. (ECPA)

900,000 allies facing almost 4.7 million Soviet troops, and its outcome was to colour post-war European history for 50 years.

The German army supported by the Romanian, Finnish, Hungarian and Slovak armies would attack the Soviet Union with three army groups spearheaded by Panzer and motorised divisions organised in four reinforced army corps, designated Panzergruppen. These would trap and smash the bulk of the Soviet Red Army in Belarus and occupy the three key cities of Leningrad (the cradle of Soviet communism), Moscow (the nerve centre of Soviet power), and Kiev, capital of the agriculturally rich Ukraine and gateway to the Caucasian oilfields.

The German army would then advance to the Ural Mountains–River Volga line, some 1,300 miles from the German border, build a 3,000-mile defensive line against Soviet Siberia and Central Asia, and occupy European Russia. Soviet Karelia would be awarded to Finland and Romania would annex Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and 'Transnistria' (Moldova and Odessa). The remaining territory would be divided into four huge 'German provinces' (Reichskommissariate); Ostland (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, north-western Russia), Moskau (northern and central Russia), Ukraine (Ukraine and southern Russia), and Kaukasus (Transcaucasia, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan). The local populations would be ruled by up to 100 million German, Dutch and Scandinavian settlers, who would ensure permanent Nazi domination of the Eurasian land mass.

As in the 1939–40 western campaign there was a destructive tension between two strategies; Gen.Obst. Heinz Guderian's 'armoured concept', whereby armoured troops had to advance rapidly to capture the enemy power centre, and the classic 'decisive manoeuvre' strategy of Army High Command, which needed time to destroy pockets of trapped enemy forces. In the event neither strategies achieved their objectives. The rapidly advancing tanks wasted precious days waiting for supporting infantry to catch up, allowing Red Army units to reform and consolidate their defences. 'Decisive manoeuvre' inflicted heavy losses during 1941 – Soviet sources suggest 3.1 million killed and taken prisoner, German sources 7.5 million – but Moscow, the Soviet capital, was not captured, and the bulk of the Red Army was able to retreat, re-group and counter-attack in December 1941. Hitler's caution prevented the Panzer forces advancing as fast as they wanted, and he stubbornly forbade local tactical withdrawals which might have avoided disasters such as Stalingrad, but nothing in the western campaigns had prepared the Wehrmacht for the defiance, tenacity and resourcefulness of the Red Army.

Stalingrad marked a reversal of German fortunes and the turning-point in the Second World War. Henceforth it would be the Wehrmacht that was outnumbered, outequipped and outmanoeuvred, and the Allies who would take, and retain, the strategic initiative until the German surrender on 8 May 1945.

The development of army units

The German army in Operation Barbarossa was organised as for the western and Balkan campaigns, with three (from 1942, five) army groups originally deployed in the western campaign. Each army group (Heeresgruppe), initially averaging one million troops commanded by a Generalfeldmarschall, controlled Army Group HQ troops and three to

four armies. An infantry army (Armee), about 200,000 strong under a General-oberst, comprised Army HQ troops and two to five infantry corps and sometimes a reinforced armoured corps (a Panzer-gruppe, by January 1942 upgraded to Panzer army, or Panzerarmee) with Panzer and motorised (in June–July 1942 also designated Panzer) corps. The independent 20th Mountain Army operated on the Arctic front under OKW control.

LEFT **As the 6th Army commander in the victorious western campaign of 1939–40, Walther von Reichenau was another '19 July Field Marshal'. He is wearing his Knight's Cross and bright red collar patches with the three-leaf gold wire *Alt-Larisch* design introduced on 3 April 1941 for the Generalfeldmarschall rank. Reichenau was appointed to command Army Group South on 1 December 1941, but died seven weeks later, on 17 January 1942, from a stroke. (ECPA)**

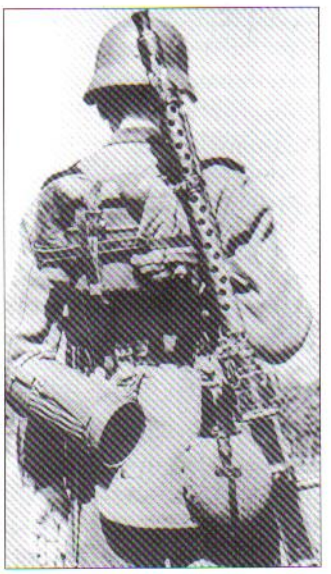
Infantry, motorised, mountain and Panzer corps comprised about 60,000 men under a General der Infanterie (or equivalent), with corps HQ troops and two to five divisions. In September 1942 the 61st and 62nd Reserve Corps were formed to control reserve divisions in Ostland and Ukraine respectively.

The Infantry Division (Infanterie-Division) retained its 1939 organisation, with three 3,049-man infantry regiments and five divisional support units – an artillery regiment, and reconnaissance, anti-tank, engineer and signals battalions. It had fewer divisional services – about four horse-drawn and motorised transport (soon replaced by Russian *panje* cart) columns, medical company, field hospital, veterinary company, military police troop and field post office. From January 1942 many infantry divisions were reduced to two infantry regiments, theoretically offsetting this reduction with increased firepower and on 15 October 1942 all infantry regiments were redesignated 'élite' Grenadier regiments to boost morale.

Security divisions (Sicherungs-Divisionen) were formed with an infantry regiment, territorial rifle (Landesschützen) battalions and various divisional support units to garrison the occupied territories. They were joined after September 1942 by units of the home-based Replacement Army (Ersatzheer). 16,000-strong reserve divisions (Reserve-Divisionen), with two to three reserve infantry regiments and divisional support units, had the role of training recruits and undertook garrison duties, whilst training divisions (Feldausbildungs-Divisionen), with two to four regiments comprising 16,000 recruits, underwent advanced combat training and awaited allocation to front-line units.

The 14,319-man M1940 Motorised Division (Infanterie-Division (mot.)) had two motorised regiments (on 15 October 1942 redesignated Motorised Grenadier) and motorised divisional support units (including a motorcycle reconnaissance battalion) and services. The army's most prestigious unit, the Großdeutschland Motorised Regiment, actually an independent reinforced regiment with four motorised battalions, support and artillery battalions and services, fought in Belarus and Central Russia. On 12 March 1942 it became a motorised division and then deployed to Southern and Central Russia.

The 13,000-man Light Infantry Division (leichte Infanterie-Division), first formed in December 1940 as an élite non-motorised 'pursuit' unit, had two infantry regiments, and from 28 June 1942 was re-designated a Rifle (Jäger) Division. The 14,131-man Mountain Division



A section first gunner on the march in June 1941, with his MG34 machine-gun slung over his back instead of over his shoulder as prescribed. Note his mess kit and shelter-quarter strapped to his A-frame and his bayonet, M1930 gas canister, M1931 bread bag and M1931 felt covered canteen and black-painted cup. (Friedrich Herrmann)

(Gebirgs-Division) had two mountain regiments with mountain-equipped divisional support units and services.

From August 1940 to January 1941 the number of Panzer divisions was expanded to 20 at the cost of weakening existing divisions. The M1940 Panzer Division now had 1 x 2 battalion armoured regiments (instead of two); nine divisional support units, namely two motorised rifle (5 July 1942 redesignated mechanised – Panzergrenadier) regiments, one artillery (later Panzer artillery) regiment, motorcycle reconnaissance (including an armoured-car company) and motorised reconnaissance battalions (ordered to merge in 1941), motorised anti-tank, armoured engineer, armoured signals and later anti-aircraft battalions; and motorised divisional services.

ABOVE **An infantry platoon pauses for a rest whilst advancing into the Soviet Union, July 1941. Note the mixture of M1935 field tunics with bluish dark green collars and M1940 tunics with *feldgrau* collars. These troops are already exhibiting the front-line fighter's disregard for uniform regulations by wearing their trousers outside their boots, and the NCO platoon leader (centre foreground) is wearing his M1931 camouflage slung over his shoulder. The second gunner on his right is carrying two spare MG34 barrels. (Brian Davis)**

The 16,000-man 1st Cavalry Division (1. Kavallerie-Division), fought in Belarus and Central Russia with three mounted regiments, one Kavallerie regiment (mounted and bicycle companies), bicycle battalion and mounted or motorised divisional support units and services. On 28 November it was reorganised as 24th Panzer Division.

Sonderverband 287, a reinforced mixed-arms regiment originally formed 4 August 1942 for commando operations in the Persian Gulf, was deployed (minus its 3rd Battalion) under Army Group 'A' in the Caucasus, and on 2 May 1943 most sub-units became 92nd Motorised Grenadier Regiment, serving in the Balkans. Sonderverband Bergmann was formed on 14 October 1941 with a German cadre commanding Georgian, North Caucasian and Azeri companies, and fought in the 1942 Caucasian campaign.

On 9 January 1941 the 'Technical Troops' were established, partly from the paramilitary 'Technical Emergency Corps' (Technische Nothilfe) to support Germany's war production, and on 15 November 1942 the 'Motor Park Troops' (Kraftfahrparktruppen) were formed to co-ordinate the units repairing and servicing motor and armoured vehicles.

European volunteers

Apart from its Romanian, Hungarian, Finnish, Slovak and Italian allies, the German army deployed huge numbers of non-German volunteers in German uniform on the eastern front, fighting to earn a favoured place in a post-war settlement after a German victory.

On 20 July 1941 Francisco Franco, the ruler of Spain (a neutral country) allowed the 250th Infantry Division – the 'Blue Division' – to be formed from 18,693 Spanish army and Fascist Falange political militia volunteers, in gratitude for German assistance in the Spanish Civil War.

A Gefreiter section leader (third from left) with an MP40 submachine-gun directs his section light machine-gun team in street fighting in a Russian village, July 1941. The first gunner is firing his MG34 machine-gun, assisted by the second gunner, with the third gunner waiting behind the section leader with a spare ammunition box. (Friedrich Herrmann)

It fought on the Leningrad and Volkhov fronts until 20 October 1943, when Franco, responding to Allied pressure, had it repatriated. The 369th Reinforced Croatian Infantry Regiment was formed from 3,000 Croatian and Bosnian volunteers in July 1941 and after a lengthy training period in Germany joined 100th Light Infantry Division in Ukraine. It fought and surrendered at Stalingrad in January 1943.

The 3,000-strong 638th Reinforced French Infantry (15 October 1942 Grenadier) Regiment was formed on 27 October 1941, and fought with 4th Panzer Army attacking Moscow before relegation to anti-partisan operations in occupied Poland and Belarus and transfer to the Waffen-SS on 1 September 1944. The Walloon Legion was organised as the 373rd Walloon Infantry Battalion on 8 August 1941 from 860 French-speaking Belgian members of Léon Degrelle's Fascist Rex Party and served in South Russia with the 100th Light Infantry Division and in the Caucasus with 97th Rifle Division before transferring to the Waffen-SS on 1 June 1943.

During this period Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish and Norwegian volunteers served on the eastern front with the Waffen-SS.

The Osttruppen

German divisions fighting in the Soviet Union and sustaining steady losses were surprised and delighted to accept a continuous stream of civilians and surrendered Soviet troops offering their services, and soon these men were unofficially employed as manual labour in all units and, in emergencies, as combat reinforcements. In September 1941 Hitler officially sanctioned recruitment of Soviet citizens as 'auxiliaries' (Hilfswillige, usually abbreviated to Hiwis) unsuccessfully insisting that they remain unarmed. Hiwis were still joining German divisions up to May 1945, and in 1943 their numbers were estimated at 250,000: German divisions were permitted to recruit them at up to 15% of divisional strength.

On 29 August 1941 the Germans organised the first volunteers into armed units – ten Estonian, Russian and Ingermanland security battalions and the 'Anti-Partisan Regiment' (Freijägerregiment) in Army

LEFT Weary motorcyclists from a divisional reconnaissance battalion take a break in July 1941, still sitting on their Zündapp KS 600W motorcycles. They are wearing the M1940 motorcyclist's protective coat with *feldgrau* collars and shoulder straps, buttoned to the legs, and have painted their helmets to blend in with the countryside, as ordered on 21 March 1940. (Author's collection)

Oblt. Steiner, commander of 2nd Battery, 201 Assault Artillery Battalion, poses with his command vehicle crew near Voronezh, September 1941. They are wearing the M1940 special field-grey uniform with Panzer skull collar patches. The rings around the barrel of the self-propelled gun indicate six Soviet tank 'kills'. (Friedrich Herrmann)

Group North, and five combat battalions (Kampfbataillone) in Army Group Centre. Attached to German divisions on anti-partisan duties or as front-line reinforcements these troops consistently proved their commitment and combat value: on 6 October 1941 mass recruitment of Soviet nationals as 'Eastern Troops' (Osttruppen) was permitted.

The first Cossack unit in the German army was the Red Army's 436th Infantry Regiment, which defected on 22 August 1941, and from October 1941 11 Cossack cavalry squadrons were raised for anti-partisan duties with security divisions, or mounted reconnaissance for Panzer divisions, usually with one squadron (Sotnia) per division: in late 1942 these expanded to 11 battalions. In 1942 three mounted regiments, three infantry regiments and six infantry battalions were recruited with Cossack field officers.

From 15 November 1941 seven security companies were raised from inaccurately labelled 'Turkic' Caucasian and Soviet middle-eastern

An infantry section of 16th Army advances cautiously near Lake Ilmen in September 1941. They are wearing their greatcoats strapped around the top of their M1939 A-frames and below the M1931 mess kit and M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter. The bayonet, entrenching tool, gas mask canister and M1931 bread bag are strapped to the waist belt. (Brian Davis)

An anti-tank crew pulls a 3.7cm Panzerabwehrkanone 35/36 anti-tank gun along a road littered with disabled Soviet light tanks in September 1941. They are wearing the normal infantry field uniform and equipment with Panzer pink branch-colour 'P' and piping on their shoulder straps. (Friedrich Herrmann)

nationalities, and in 1942 they expanded into six 'Eastern legions' (Ostlegionen) in occupied Poland: Armenian, Azerbaijan, Georgian, North Caucasian (Ossetians, Ingushes and Chechens etc.), Turkestan (Kazakhs, Kirkhiz, Tajiks, Turkmens, Uzbeks etc.) and Volga-Tartar (Kazan Tartars, Bashkirs, Chuvashes, Udmurts etc.) Up to the fall of Stalingrad the legions recruited civilian volunteers into five ordnance, construction, and transport battalions and 200 supply and transport companies. Ex-Red Army troops joined 34 infantry battalions numbered in the 783–844 series, and 28 field battalions carrying the divisional number, but only 28 battalions saw action on the eastern front, mostly in the Caucasus.

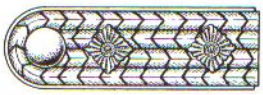
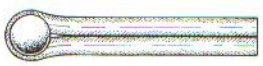
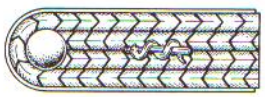
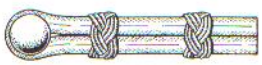
From 1 October 1942 Estonian, Russian, Belarussian and Ukrainian units were designated as 'Eastern battalions', mostly with Army Group Centre. Each battalion (Ostbataillon), about 950 strong, was allocated a German commander and a cadre of 36 German officers, NCOs and men. In January 1943 the 48 Eastern battalions (except Estonian battalions 658–660) and all Russian, Belarussian and Ukrainian Hiwis were nominally united as the Russian Liberation Army (Russkaya Osvoboditel'naya Armiya, or ROA).

THE EASTERN FRONT 1941–3

Army Group North's Baltic campaign

At 4.15 a.m. on Sunday 22 June 1941 Army Group North (Heeresgruppe Nord), formerly Army Group 'C', under GFM Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb, crossed the River Niemen and began the 525-mile advance towards Leningrad with its main strike-force, 4th Panzer Group (Gen.Obst. Erich von Hoepner), with eight divisions (three Panzer, two motorised, three infantry, one Waffen-SS motorised). On 26 June, after 185 miles (296 km), it reached the Daugava (Drina) River and on 4 July Ostrov, whilst 18th Army (ten infantry divisions) advanced along the Baltic coast, capturing Riga on 1 July. The 16th Army (nine infantry divisions) guarded the Panzer group's eastern flank, completing the occupation of

TABLE 1: BADGES OF RANK OF THE GERMAN ARMY SPECIALIST OFFICERS (SONDERFÜHRER) 1 SEPTEMBER 1939–8 MAY 1945

Shoulder piece 1.9.39–20.3.40 7.12.42–8.5.45	Shoulder piece 21.3.40–6.12.42	Rank titles 1.9.39–20.3.40 21.3.40–6.12.42	Rank titles 7.12.42–8.5.45
1.9.39–20.3.40		**Group R (Colonel)** [f] 1. Regimentsführer? [a] 2. – 3. – 4. – 5. –	
		Group B (Major) 1. Bataillonsführer; [a] Abteilungsführer [b] 2. – 3. – 4. – 5. –	**Group B (Major)** 1. Bataillonsführer; Abteilungsführer 2. Oberkriegsarzt 3. – 4. – 5. Sonderführer (B)
		**Group K (Captain)** 1. Kompanieführer [a/b] 2. Bataillonsarzt; [c] Abteilungsarzt; [c] Kolonnenarzt; [c] Abschnittsarzt; [c] Sanitätszugführer; [d] Chefarzt; [e] Abteilungsarzt [e] 3. Abteilungsveterinär; Ortsveterinär; Abschnittsveterinär; Stationsveterinär 4. – 5. –	**Group K (Captain)** 1. Kompanieführer 2. Kriegsarzt 3. – 4. Dolmetscher (K) 5. Sonderführer (K)
		**Group Z (2nd Lieutenant)** 1. Zugführer [a/b] 2. Hilfsarzt [c] 3. Hilfsveterinär 4. Dolmetscher (Z) 5. –	**Group Z (2nd Lieutenant)** 1. Zugführer 2. Kriegsassistenzarzt 3. – 4. Dolmetscher (Z) 5. Sonderführer (Z)
		**Group O (Coy Sgt.Maj.)** 1. Zugführer [a/b] 2. Sanitätszugführer [c] 3. – 4. Dolmetscher (O) 5. –	
		Group G (Corporal) 1. Gruppenführer [a/b] 2. Sanitätsgruppenführer [c] 3. – 4. – 5. –	

1. General service ([a] engineers, construction engineers, railway engineers, technical troops; [b] artillery survey, signals, war reporters). No branch insignia. [f] Abolished by March 1940.
2. Medical Corps personnel ([c] attached to non-medical units; [d] in medical units; [e] in reserve field hospitals).
Gold (21.3.40–6.12.42 white aluminium) aesculapius staff for officers; yellow trade right cuff-badge for NCOs.
3. Veterinary Corps (1.9.39–6.12.42). Gold (1.9.39–20.3.40), white aluminium (21.3.40–6.12.42) snake for officers, no branch insignia for NCOs.
4. Interpreters' Service (15.5.40–30.9.43). No branch insignia.
5. Other branches (army group, army, corps and divisional staffs, administration, POW camps). No branch insignia.

Lithuania and Latvia. On 10 July 4th Panzer Group, now at Pskov on the Velikiya River, resumed the offensive, whilst 18th Army cleared Estonia, but enemy resistance in swampy terrain slowed the Panzer Group's progress and on 14 July Hitler ordered it to halt for three vital weeks on the Luga River, only 60 miles (96km) from Leningrad, to await the infantry. The advance recommenced on 8 August and on 1 September 4th Panzer Group captured Schlüsselburg on Lake Ladoga, whilst 18th Army, with the help of Estonian guerrilla forces, completed the occupation of Estonia, taking Narva on 14 July and Tallinn on 27 July

A military official with the rank equivalent of Generalmajor in officer's service uniform, with a M1935 field tunic with general officer's *Alt-Larisch* design on a dark green patch piped on three sides in bright red, and gold/silver threaded dark green/gold shoulder boards with the matt aluminium HV monogram on a bright red underlay. His decorations include the 1914 Iron Cross 1st Class with 1939 bar above the civilian Physical Training (left) and Horseman's badges. His M1935 peaked service cap's upper cap band piping is gold wire (like the crown and lower cap band pipings) not dark green facing cloth as prescribed. (Brian Davis)

before advancing to the western outskirts of Leningrad. In the south 16th Army took Novgorod on 24 August before reaching Lake Ladoga. On 4 September the Finnish army halted on 1939 Finnish–Soviet frontier on the northern approaches to Leningrad and refused to advance further for fear of provoking the Soviet Union even more.

Army Group North in North-Western Russia

On 9 September 4th Panzer Group attacked Leningrad, now only accessible to the Soviets across Lake Ladoga, but on 17 September Hitler transferred it to Army Group Centre for the attack on Moscow. Leningrad was to be besieged by 16th and 18th armies and bombarded by heavy artillery, a fatal decision that spared the city and prevented further significant advances by Army Group North. The epic siege of Leningrad lasted almost 900 days, and was finally lifted by the Red Army on 27 January 1944.

On 8 November 1941 XXXIX Armoured Corps, transferred from 3rd Panzer Group, captured Tikhvin while trying to reach Finnish forces on the River Svir, but on 5 December the Red Army unleashed its winter offensive, forcing the whole army group back 40 miles (64km) to the Volkhov River, where in January 1942 it settled down to static trench-warfare. Meanwhile Hitler replaced Von Leeb with Gen.Obst. Georg von Küchler. By April 1942 the 16th Army had retreated to the Lovat River with contingents successfully holding out in the encircled pockets at Kholm from January to May 1942, and Demyansk from February to June 1942. Finally in January 1943 Velikiye Luki fell to the Red Army.

The Arctic front

On 19th June 1941 the German Norwegen army, under OKW command, advanced from Northern Finland into Soviet Karelia with three infantry and three mountain divisions (one Waffen-SS), but was unable to capture the key port of Murmansk. By December 1941 it settled down to static warfare and in June 1942 was redesignated 20th Mountain Army under Gen.Obst. Edouard Dietl. Further south the Finnish army group under Finnish Field Marshal Gustav Mannerheim occupied ex-Finnish Karelia as far as the River Svir.

Army Group Centre in Belarus

Army Group Centre (Heeresgruppe Mitte), formerly Army Group 'B', commanded by GFM Fedor von Bock, was the strongest force. 3rd Panzer Group (Gen.Obst. Hermann Hoth), with seven divisions (four Panzer, three motorised) would advance in the north whilst the nine divisions (five Panzer, two motorised, one Waffen-SS motorised, one cavalry) of 2nd Panzer Group (Gen.Obst. Heinz Guderian) advanced in the south, trapping the bulk of the Red Army in a series of pockets in Belarus, which would be smashed by 4th Army's 19 and 9th Army's 12 infantry divisions. Then the army group would be reinforced from Army Group North for the drive on Moscow, 600 miles (960km) from the starting-point.

The initial advance through was slow with unexpectedly strong enemy resistance, but by 27 June the Panzer groups had advanced 200 miles (320km) and closed the Minsk pocket, leaving the slower infantry armies to close the Brest–Litovsk and Bialystok pockets on 28 June. The

A specialist officer with the rank of Sonderführer (K) wearing the officer's M1935 field tunic with M1940 Sonderführer collar patches and shoulder boards. As a former NCO who was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon he wears an officer's collar, cap band and breast-eagle backing in bluish dark green facing cloth instead of the prescribed (and difficult to obtain) Luftwaffe grey-blue uniform cloth. (Brian Davis)

Panzer groups then advanced into Western Russia and on 18 July trapped Soviet forces in the Smolensk pocket, 200 miles (320km) from Moscow. Von Bock wanted an immediate attack on Moscow, 200 miles (320km) away, but on 19 July Hitler, anxious to ensure the capture of Kiev, sent Guderian's 2nd Panzer Group and 2nd Army, just arrived from victory in Yugoslavia, 250 miles (400km) south to support Army Group South's 1st Panzer Group's attack on the city. Guderian defeated Soviet forces at Roslavl on 9 August, Gomel on 20 August, Kiev city on 19 September and helped close the Kiev pocket on 26 September, taking 665,000 Soviet prisoners before rejoining Army Group Centre.

Army Group Centre and the attack on Moscow

On 2 October 1941, 11 weeks after the capture of Smolensk, Army Group Centre launched Operation Typhoon. Hoth's 3rd Panzer Group advanced to the north, Guderian's 2nd in the south, whilst Hoeppner's 4th was earmarked to attack Moscow itself: 2nd, 4th and 9th Armies provided support. On 7 October Orel was taken and on 12 October the Vyazma and Bryansk pockets closed, but the sudden thaw on 6 October had bogged the army group down in a sea of mud. The big freeze of 6 November allowed the advance to continue, and on 30 November advanced units of 4th Panzer Group were only 25 miles (40km) from Moscow's Red Square; but by 4 December the Germans had run out of steam.

The Soviet winter offensive hit Army Group Centre with full force on 5 December but the Germans resisted tenaciously and after a 100-mile (160km) retreat and the loss of Kalinin formed a defensive line on the Dnepr before Smolensk, Vyazma and Rzhev. This line was held until

A general officer walks pensively through the snow, December 1941. He wears his M1935 service cap and M1935 field greatcoat with a fur collar normally only permitted when off duty and general officer's bright red facing-cloth lapels. He holds the Knight's Cross and carries 6 x 30 binoculars and a pistol in a holster on his brown officer's belt, the standard field equipment for officers above platoon leader. He is followed by a staff officer anxiously clutching a document case and wearing a M1935 field greatcoat and M1934 'old style' field cap. (ECPA)

A three-man section light machine-gun team from the élite Großdeutschland Motorised Regiment in action with their MG34 machine-gun near Tula, central Russia, in December 1941. Note the white thread GD regimental monogram on their bluish dark green white-piped shoulder straps, the bed sheets cut down to form makeshift helmet camouflage covers, and the spare ammunition boxes. (Brian Davis)

1943 with only minor losses around Smolensk. GFM Günther von Kluge replaced Von Bock on 19 December 1941.

Army Group South in Ukraine

Army Group South (Heeresgruppe Süd), formerly Army Group 'A', commanded by GFM Gerd von Rundstedt, was to occupy Ukraine. Gen.Obst. Ewald von Kleist's 1st Panzer Group with nine divisions (five Panzer, two motorised, two Waffen-SS motorised) headed straight for Kiev followed by 6th Army with 14 divisions (one Panzer, 13 infantry). 17th Army, with 13 divisions (seven infantry, two light infantry, two mountain, two Slovak) advanced through Central Ukraine, whilst 11th Army with 12 divisions (seven infantry, five Romanian) would advance along the coast with the Romanian 'Antonescu' Army Group (3rd and 4th Armies, XXI Corps).

Army Group South's advance was comparatively slow. 17th Army took the border garrison of Lvov on 30 June and on 8 August it combined with 11th Army to close the Uman pocket. On 16 October 11th Army and the Romanians took Odessa and on 27 October occupied the Crimea and besieged Sevastopol, finally capturing it on 27 June 1942. Meanwhile 1st and 4th Panzer Group took the Kiev pocket on 26 September and on 20 October 6th Army took Stalino and the Donets Basin industrial region, and on 24 October Kharkov. On 20 November 1st Panzer Group took Rostov-on-Don but GFM Walther von Reichenau, who replaced Von Rundstedt on 1 December, abandoned it on 2 December, only to die suddenly on 17 January 1942. He was succeeded by GFM von Bock.

The Soviet winter offensive made minimal gains around Kharkov, Rostov and in Eastern Crimea, and by 20 April 1942 it had ground to a halt. On 28 June Army Group South launched the fateful Operation Blue towards Stalingrad and the Caucasus and on 7 July 4th Panzer Group captured Voronezh.

Army Groups 'A' and 'B'

On 9 July 1942 Army Group South became Army Group 'B', and Army Group 'A' was formed. This army group, under GFM Wilhelm List, with 20 divisions (three Panzer, 12 infantry, two mountain, three Italian) in

An infantry section in a Russian village waits for orders, January 1942. They wear the practical snow shirt (originally only issued to mountain troops before the war) under their field equipment, and have covered their helmets with cut down bed sheets or snow shirt material. (Brian Davis)

1st Panzer Army and 17th Army, would advance into the oil-rich Caucasus region. Meanwhile Army Group 'B', commanded by GFM Maximilian Freiherr von Weichs, with 53 divisions (five Panzer, 25 infantry, two motorised, ten Romanian, five Hungarian, six Italian) in 4th Panzer Army, 2nd, 6th, 3rd and 4th Romanian, 2nd Hungarian and 8th Italian armies, would advance to the Volga and take Stalingrad.

Army Group 'B' moved forward rapidly and on 23 August 6th Army and elements of 4th Panzer Army entered Stalingrad and began to dislodge the Soviet defenders, but on 19 November the Red Army smashed through the army group's flanks, defended by Romanian and Italian units, and on 23 November had sealed the Stalingrad pocket. Hitler refused to allow the defenders to break out, believing Stalingrad could be supplied by the Luftwaffe as Demyansk had been. On 26 November he detached four armies (6th, 4th Panzer, 3rd and 4th Romanian) from Army Group 'B' to form Army Group 'Don' under GFM Erich von Manstein, in order to hold the Volga line, but on 2 February 1943 the 230 German, Romanian and Croatian troops in the Stalingrad pocket surrendered and Von Manstein retreated to Rostov-on-Don as Army Group 'B' returned to Ukraine.

Army Group 'A' had finally captured the bitterly defended Rostov-on-Don on 23 July 1942 and advanced into the Caucasus, taking Krasnodar (the capital of the Kuban Cossacks) on 9 August, and Novorossiysk on 6 September. Hitler temporally took over army group command on 10 September before appointing Gen.Obst. Ewald von Kleist on 22 November, when the offensive had halted in the Caucasian foothills before Grozny. On 23 December Army Group 'A' was ordered to evacuate the Caucasus to avoid being trapped there and by 1 February 1943 had retreated west of Rostov-on-Don.

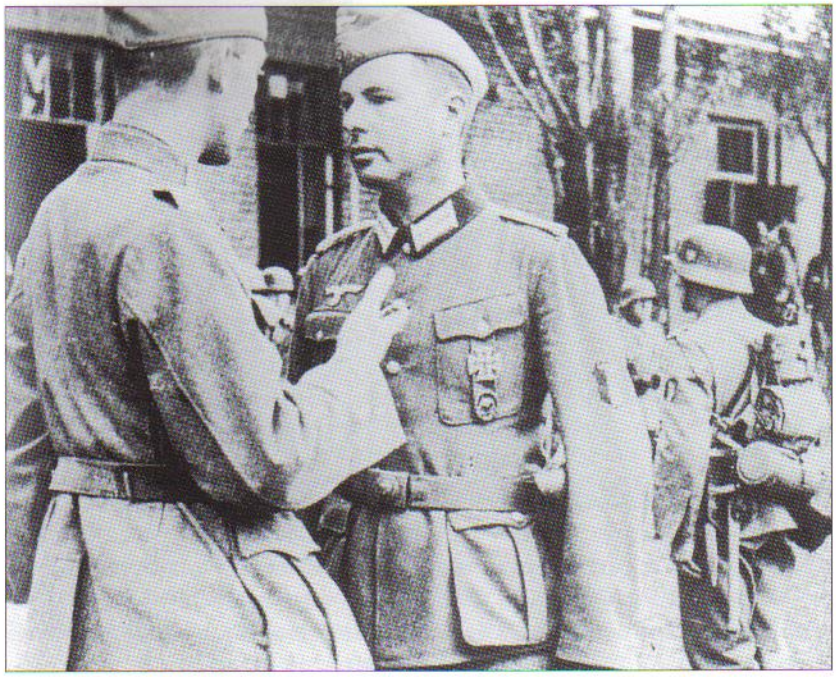
The army of occupation

The German-occupied Soviet Union was divided vertically into four strips. The eastern strip was the combat zone with Field Army troops; the east-central strip, the division-level 'Field Army Rear Area' (Rückwärtiges Armeegebiet) with Army Rear Area commanders controlling guard and military police battalions and the west-central strip the corps-level 'Army Group Rear Area' (Rückwärtiges Heeresgebiet) with security divisions. The eastern strip comprised the Western Ostland and Ukraine provinces, nominally under German civilian administration, with district commands (Oberfeldkommandanturen).

ARMY UNIFORM

Orders of dress

Regulations issued on 28 December 1939 reduced the eleven orders of dress established on 8 April 1935 to four: the service uniform or walking-out uniform for formal and semi-formal occasions; the service uniform



Léon Degrelle, the 36-year-old leader of the right-wing Walloon Rex Movement and a volunteer in the Walloon Legion, shortly after being commissioned Leutnant and receiving the Iron Cross 1st Class in May 1942. He wears an officer's M1938 field cap with white branch-colour chevron (the Legion adopted light green later that month), an other ranks' M1935 field tunic with officer's insignia and the Legion's arm shield, and wears the Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon, 1st Class pin-back medal and bronze Wound badge. Hitler described Degrelle as 'the son I would most like to have had'. He is talking to an officer in an other ranks' M1940 field tunic. Behind is a Walloon Unteroffizier with full rifleman's equipment. (Josef Charita)

for training or barracks duties; the field uniform for combat, and the fatigue uniform for NCOs and men on work details.

All dates connected with the introduction of new uniform, equipment and insignia, are the date of the army order, but the actual date of introduction could be up to two years later. Logistical difficulties meant that front-line units and remote garrisons might wait up to two years to receive new items, whilst front-line combat troops often received priority issue over support units in rear areas and the Replacement Army in Germany, especially in the case of the M1942 special winter clothing. Experienced soldiers, especially senior officers, often preferred to retain obsolete items if they were of sentimental value, of superior pre-war quality, or marked them as 'old sweats', and this was often officially tolerated as an aid to morale. Finally, to reduce demand on the hard-pressed German clothing industry, which was already sub-contracting production to factories in occupied countries with a corresponding slackening of quality control, an army order of 10 July 1942 decreed that all obsolete clothing could continue to be worn for the duration of the war. Please note that only uniforms and insignia in significant use in the period June 1941–February 1943 are covered here, and readers are referred to Volume 1 (Men-at-Arms 311) for detailed descriptions of items in use before this period.

From the invasion of the Rhineland on 7 March 1936 to the attack on the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 German units maintained a high degree of uniformity of appearance, and this continued up to the surrender of the Stalingrad pocket on 4 February 1943. Thereafter the OKH began to introduce new bravery awards, encourage élite units with non-standard uniforms and insignia, and increasingly tolerate unofficial and security-compromising unit insignia in ordinary divisions, in order to boost morale and self-confidence severely dented by the Stalingrad defeat.

A group of Estonian volunteers in 181st Security Battalion, May 1942. The reliable and capable Estonian volunteers occupied a favoured position amongst the Osttruppen, and by 1942 were permitted to wear standard German infantry uniforms and insignia, without any Osttruppen distinctions. Note the M1940 field tunics with M1935 bluish dark green facing cloth and M1940 *feldgrau* uniform cloth shoulder straps piped infantry white, the M1938 other ranks' collar patches with bluish dark green centre stripes and M1940 patches with *feldgrau* stripes and the plain collars awaiting collar patches. (Henry Rüütel Memorial Archive)

Officer's service uniform

In the June 1941–February 1942 period this uniform, also worn by probationary 2nd lieutenants (Oberfähnrich and equivalent) consisted of the M1935 officer's peaked service cap, M1935 officer's field tunic with ribbons, M1935 officer's field greatcoat, M1934 officer's brown leather belt, officer's breeches and officer's black leather high-boots, grey suede gloves, standard pistol and holster.

The superior quality *feldgrau* (greenish-grey) tricot or 'eskimo' material cap had a bluish dark green, finely woven facing cloth cap-band, branch-colour facing cloth pipings, a plain black peak and bright aluminium wire chin cords. A M1935 bright aluminium eagle and swastika was worn above a stamped bright aluminium national cockade in an oak-leaf wreath. General officers had metallic woven cord cap pipings and wire chin cords in fired gold or, from 15 July 1938, in the cheaper and more durable bright yellowish-gold 'celleon' artificial material; and from 16 November 1942 their eagle, cockade and wreath were manufactured in gilded aluminium.

The superior quality *feldgrau* cloth M1933 tunic, modified 10 September 1935, was privately purchased from approved tailors, allowing for significant variations in personal taste. It had five (from 26 May 1941 six) matt grey buttons, four patch-pockets, turn-back cuffs and a bluish dark green collar. The field quality insignia consisted of the M1935 officer's hand embroidered matt aluminium thread breast-eagle on a bluish dark green facing cloth backing; M1935 officer's bluish dark green facing-cloth collar patches with hand embroidered matt aluminium guard's braids with branch-colour centre cords; and rank insignia on shoulder boards. General officers had gold buttons, a dress quality gold thread or celleon eagle and bright red collar patches with the gold two-leaf (three-leaf for Generalfeldmarschall from 3 April 1941) *Alt-Larisch* design. The eight-buttoned M1920 and six-buttoned M1928 service tunics, with distinctive diagonal lower concealed pocket flaps, were also worn.

The *feldgrau* greatcoat had two rows of six buttons and a bluish dark green collar (the 9 May 1940 order requiring a *feldgrau* collar was usually ignored) which in 1942 was widened for greater warmth, with bright red

lapel linings for general officers. The plain stone grey (from 9 May 1940 *feldgrau*) breeches had bright red pipings and stripes for general officers or crimson for staff officers. The black leather high-boots were worn with spurs.

Other ranks' service uniform

The service uniform for technical NCOs (Festungswerkmeister etc.), senior NCOs (Stabsfeldwebel–Feldwebel etc.) and many junior NCOs (Unterfeldwebel–Unteroffizier etc.) consisted of the other ranks' M1935 service peaked cap or M1935 or M1942 field cap, M1935 field tunic, M1935 field greatcoat, trousers, black leather marching boots, black leather belt and holster with standard pistol and grey suede gloves. Other junior NCOs and men (Stabsgefreiter–Soldat etc.) wore the field cap only, and a bayonet and scabbard on the belt.

The other ranks' peaked cap was as for officers but in *feldgrau* tricot with a black patent leather or vulcanised fibre chin strap. The M1935 other ranks' *feldgrau* cloth field cap had a silver-grey, machine embroidered eagle and swastika on a bluish dark green backing and a cockade on a bluish dark green rhomboid, both changed on 4 June 1940 to mouse-grey on *feldgrau* backing. The cockade was enclosed in a branch-colour chevron, abolished 10 July 1942. The M1942 other ranks' *feldgrau* field cap, introduced 21 July 1942, actually the M1936 mountain cap without the peak, had double-lined flaps which could be pulled over the ears and double-buttoned under the chin in cold weather, offering better protection than the M1935 cap. The 4th Pattern M1939 mountain cap insignia – a mouse-grey woven eagle and cockade on a *feldgrau* T-shaped backing – was worn on this cap.

The *feldgrau* tunic had a bluish dark green collar, five (from 26 May 1941 six) matt grey buttons, plain cuffs and other ranks' field-quality M1937 silver-grey breast-eagle (from 4 June 1940 mouse-grey machine-embroidered) and M1938 'standard braid' collar patches, introduced 26 November 1938. NCOs wore M1935 bright aluminium collar braid or silver-grey artificial silk collar braid, replaced on 25 April 1940 by mouse-

An infantry section fords a river in Central Russia whilst tanks advance away on the opposite shore. The photograph gives a good view of a rifleman's equipment of M1931 mess kit, rolled canvas battle pack and M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter strapped to the A-frame, with the entrenching tool, M1930 gas mask canister, M1931 bread bag and M1931 canteen and cup attached to the waist belt. The section light machine-gun team first gunner (first left) is carrying his MG34 machine-gun in the regulation fashion over his shoulder. (Brian Davis)

Tank crewmen take a break, their grimy faces showing the strain of combat, July 1942. The Unteroffizier (first left) wears the M1936 black field jacket, the soldier (first right) the M1941 reed-green field jacket for tank crews (with Iron Cross 1st Class and silver Tank Combat badge) and trousers over a black tie and grey shirt, the other troops wear the grey shirt and reed-green trousers, and the soldier (second right) wears the M1941 one-piece tank overall. The other ranks' M1940 black field cap is prominent. (ECPA)

Another tank crew, June 1942. Most are wearing the M1941 one-piece tank overall over their black uniforms. Note that the trooper (second left) and the Wachtmeister at the back have removed their black ties in the summer heat, and that the M1940 black field caps still bear the Panzer pink chevron which was ordered to be removed 10 July 1942. (Friedrich Herrmann)

grey artificial silk or cellulose-fibre wool. The M1935 greatcoat round-ended bluish dark green shoulder straps piped in branch colour were worn on the tunic from 26 November 1938.

The M1940 tunic, introduced 9 May 1940, had a *feldgrau* collar and shoulder straps and M1940 'standard braid' collar patches, two *feldgrau* guard's braids with mouse-grey centre stripes and dividing stripe, sewn onto a *feldgrau* collar patch or, from 1941, directly onto the collar. The M1942 tunic, introduced in December 1941, had no pocket pleats but was not in common use until 1943.

The M1935 other ranks' *feldgrau* field greatcoat was as for officers but with other ranks' quality cloth and insignia. The belt had a dull *feldgrau* pebbled aluminium (from about 1941 smooth sheet-metal) buckle with a Wehrmacht eagle and motto. The M1940 greatcoat had *feldgrau* shoulder straps and collar, and the M1942 model had a wider collar for better protection against the cold.

Walking-out uniform

When walking-out or on leave officers wore the service uniform, sometimes with the M1937 officer's piped field tunic, with stone grey or *feldgrau* trousers and no belt, holster or pistol. Technical and Senior NCOs wore the peaked cap, field tunic or greatcoat, trousers and black leather ankle-boots, belt and marksman's lanyard, junior NCOs and men adding the bayonet, scabbard and bayonet knot.

Officer's field uniform

In the field officers (except platoon leaders) wore the service uniform, but with the steel helmet or field cap and increasingly (though reluctantly) from 23 February 1941, the unpopular, British-army inspired *feldgrau* or brown sailcloth anklets – 'retreat puttees' first introduced 8 August 1940 – with black lace-up ankle-boots to save shoe leather.

The M1935 steel helmet, painted matt greenish-grey with roughened surfaces after 21 March 1940, had a silver-white Wehrmacht eagle decal on a black shield on the left side. The M1942 helmet, introduced

20 April 1942, abolished the edge-crimping to simplify production but was not common in the field until 1943. The peakless M1938 officer's *feldgrau* tricot field cap had aluminium thread crown and front-flap pipings, and an aluminium wire embroidered cockade in a branch-colour chevron below an embroidered bright aluminium thread eagle on a bluish dark green backing. General officers wore gold-thread or 'celleon' piping and gold artificial silk chevron, and from 16 November 1942 gold-thread insignia. On 10 July 1942 all officers were required to remove the chevron.

The M1934 'old style' peaked field cap, officially abolished 1 April 1942, was worn by officers and NCOs until May 1945. Some officers wore the other ranks' M1942 field cap unofficially, with bright aluminium (gold for general officers) crown piping.

On 31 October 1939 all officers below general officer in combat units were ordered to wear the other ranks' field tunic, black belt, trousers and marching boots, in order not to be too conspicuous to the enemy, but many officers retained the officer's M1935 field tunic, or modified the other ranks' tunic, adding officer's roll-back cuffs, collar patches and bluish dark green, higher, more pointed collars.

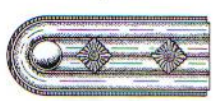
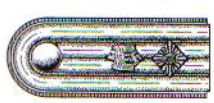
Subalterns acting as infantry platoon leaders wore the other ranks' black leather belt supporting on the left back hip the 84/98 bayonet in a black-painted metal scabbard in the M1939 black leather cavalry bayonet-frog, usually secured to the black artificial leather case of the 'short shovel' or the M1938 folding shovel; and on the right back hip the M1931 *feldgrau* or M1941 greenish-brown water repellent canvas bread bag for personal effects and the M1931 brown felt-covered canteen and black (from 23 April 1941 greenish-brown) painted aluminium cup; and the black or brown leather M1935 dispatch case on the left front hip. The black leather M1920 'officer's support straps' secured two sets of three 1st pattern greenish-brown M38/40 *feldgrau* canvas ammunition

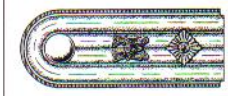
A mountain infantry company begin a route march in July 1942, singing cheerfully to impress the Propaganda-kompanie cameraman. The men are wearing standard mountain infantry uniforms with distinctive ankle-puttees, but for coolness have unbuttoned their collars, rolled up their sleeves and slung their helmets on their belts. The officers can be recognised by their 6 x 30 issue binoculars. (Author's collection)

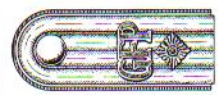
pouches for the MP38 or MP40 submachine-gun introduced 1940. The anti-gas cape in a greenish-brown rubberised canvas pouch (from 1942 *feldgrau* or greenish-brown linen or canvas) was usually tied with rubber bands or straps to a *feldgrau*-painted M1930 corrugated metal canister containing the M1930 or M1938 gas mask and slung from a shoulder by

TABLE 2: SELECTIVE LIST OF RANKS OF REGULAR MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THE GERMAN ARMY 1 SEPTEMBER 1939–8 MAY 1945

Branch designation (branch symbol + branch colour / secondary branch colour) (*Sample insignia illustrated)	Senior career (*Beamten des höheren Dienstes*). Gold *Kolben* collar patches (*Alt-Larisch* for Generals).			
	General der Infanterie	**Generalleutnant**	**Generalmajor**	**Oberst**
Court Martial (Reichskriegsgericht) (DARK GREEN / DARK RED) [1]	Ministerialdirektor im Rang eines General der Infanterie	Oberreichskriegsanwalt * Senatspräsident beim RKG *	Reichskriegsanwalt Reichskriegsgerichtsrat	Oberstkriegsgerichtsrat beim Reichskriegsgericht
District Admin. (Intendantur) (HV - DARK GREEN / BRIGHT RED) [2]	Generaloberstabsintendant (20.12.39) [3] *	Heeresintendant/Generalstabs-intendant (20.12.39)	Gruppenintendant, Korpsintendant/ Generalintendant (20.12.39)	Intendant/ Oberstintendant (20.12.39)
Paymasters (Zahlmeister) (HV + DARK GREEN / WHITE)	–	–	–	–
Mil. Admin. (Kriegsverwaltung) (EAGLE + DARK GREEN / LIGHT GREY) [4]	–	–	Kriegsverwaltungschef * Kriegsvizeverwaltungschef [6] *	Kriegsverwaltungsabteilung-schef
Field Post Office (Feldpost) (FP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT YELLOW) [8]	–	Heeresfeldpostmeister	Heeresfeldpostdirigent	Feldoberpostdirektor *
Field Security Police (GFP) (GFP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT BLUE)	–	–	Feldpolizeichef der Wehrmacht (1941–2) [11]	Heeresfeldpolizeichef [12/13]
Chaplains (Heeresgeistliche) (VIOLET) [15]	–	–	Feldbischof der Wehrmacht [16]	Wehrmachtdekan [17]

Branch designation (branch symbol + branch colour / secondary branch colour) (*Sample insignia illustrated)	Senior career (*Beamten des höheren Dienstes*). Gold *Kolben* collar patches (*Alt-Larisch* for Generals).			
	Oberstleutnant	**Major**	**Hauptmann** 	**Oberleutnant** 
Court Martial (Reichskriegsgericht) (DARK GREEN / DARK RED) [1]	Oberkriegsgerichtsrat beim RKG. Bürodirektor beim RKG.	Kriegsgerichtsrat	Kriegsgerichtsrat (unter 35 Jahren) * Kriegsrichter *	–
District Admin. (Intendantur) (HV + DARK GREEN / BRIGHT RED) [2]	Oberintendanturrat/ Oberfeldintendant (9.9.42) *	Intendanturrat/ Oberstabsintendant (9.9.42)	Intendanturrat/Stabsintendant (9.9.42) a.p. Stabsintendant	–
Paymasters (Zahlmeister) (HV + DARK GREEN / WHITE)	–	–	–	–
Mil. Admin. (Kriegsverwaltung) (EAGLE + DARK GREEN / LIGHT GREY) [4/5]	Oberkriegsverwaltungsrat/ Kriegsverwaltungsoberrat (6.4.40)	Kriegsverwaltungsrat	Kriegsverwaltungsrat (unter 35 Jahren), Kriegsverwaltungsassessor	Kriegsverwaltungsreferendar (4.11.40) *
Field Post Office (Feldpost) (FP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT YELLOW) [8]	Feldoberpostrat/ Feldpostoberrat (1942)	Feldpostrat	Feldpostrat (unter 35 Jahren)	–
Field Security Police (GFP) (GFP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT BLUE) [10]	Oberfeldpolizeidirektor (4.6.43) [13]	Feldpolizeidirektor [13] *	–	–
Chaplains (Heeresgeistliche) (VIOLET) [15]	Wehrmachtoberpfarrer [17]	Wehrmachtpfarrer [17]	Wehrmachtkriegspfarrer [18]	–

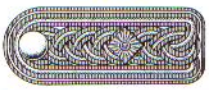
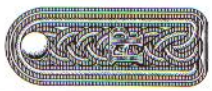
Branch designation (branch symbol + branch colour / secondary branch colour) (*Sample insignia illustrated)	Advanced career (*Beamten des gehobenen Dienstes*). Thick silver-wire guard's braid collar patches.			
	Oberstleutnant	**Major**	**Hauptmann**	**Oberleutnant** 
Court Martial (Reichskriegsgericht) (DARK GREEN / DARK RED) [1]	–	Amtsrat beim RKG. Amtmann beim RKG	Reichskriegsgerichts-oberinspektor	Reichskriegsgerichtsinspektor Kanzleivorsteher beim RKG
District Admin. (Intendantur) (HV + DARK GREEN / BRIGHT RED) [2]	Amtsrat *	Amtmann	–	–
Paymasters (Zahlmeister) (HV + DARK GREEN / WHITE)	Oberfeldzahlmeister	Oberstabszahlmeister *	Stabszahlmeister	Oberzahlmeister *
Mil. Admin. (Kriegsverwaltung) (EAGLE + DARK GREEN / LIGHT GREY) [4/5]	–	Kriegsverwaltungsamtsrat [7] Kriegsverwaltungsamtmann	Kriegsverwaltungs-oberinspektor	Kriegsverwaltungsinspektor
Field Post Office (Feldpost) (FP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT YELLOW) [8]	–	Feldpostamtsrat Feldpostamtmann	Feldoberpostinspektor/ Feldpostoberinspektor (1942)	Feldpostinspektor
Field Security Police (GFP) (GFP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT BLUE) [10]	–	–	Feldpolizeikommissar [13] *	–
Chaplains (Heeresgeistliche) (VIOLET) [15]	–	–	–	–

Branch designation (branch symbol + branch colour / secondary branch colour) (*Sample insignia illustrated)	Advanced career. Thick silver-wire guard's braid collar patches.	Intermediate career (*Beamte des mittleren Dienstes*). Thick silver-wire guard's braid collar patches (thin silver braids for NCOs).		
	Leutnant	**Oberleutnant** 	**Leutnant**	**Oberfeldwebel**
Court Martial (Reichskriegsgericht) (DARK GREEN / DARK RED) [1]	–	–	Reichskriegsgerichtssekretär	Oberbotenmeister beim RKG
District Admin. (Intendantur) (HV + DARK GREEN / BRIGHT RED) [2]	–	–	–	–
Paymasters (Zahlmeister) (HV + DARK GREEN / WHITE)	Zahlmeister *	–	–	–
Mil. Admin. (Kriegsverwaltung) (EAGLE + DARK GREEN / LIGHT GREY) [4/5]	–	–	Kriegssekretär/ Kriegsverwaltungssekretär (6.4.40)	Kriegssassistent/Kriegsverwaltungsassistent (6.4.40) *
Field Post Office (Feldpost) (FP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT YELLOW) [8]	–	Feldoberpostsekretär/ Feldpostobersekretär (1942)	Feldpostsekretär *	Feldpostassistent [9]
Field Security Police (GFP) (GFP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT BLUE) [10]	–	Feldpolizeiobersekretär (4.6.43)/ Feldpolizeiinspektor (11.2.44) [13] *	Feldpolizeisekretär [13]	Feldpolizeiassistent [14]
Chaplains (Heeresgeistliche)	–	–	–	–

a thin brown strap or strapped to the bread bag. Zeiss 6 x 30 issue binoculars were carried on the chest, a signal whistle was secured to a breast-pocket button by a plaited lanyard, and a flashlight hung from a shoulder-strap button.

Other ranks' field uniform

Other ranks wore the service uniform, sometimes with anklets and lace-up ankle-boots, adding the steel helmet and omitting the service peaked cap, except for some NCOs who wore the M1934 'old style' peaked field cap.

Branch designation (branch symbol + branch colour / secondary branch colour) (*Sample insignia illustrated)	Basic career (*Beamten des einfachen Dienstes*). Thin silver braid collar patches.	
	Feldwebel 	**Unterfeldwebel** 
Court Martial (Reichskriegsgericht) (DARK GREEN / DARK RED) [1]	Reichskriegsgerichts-wachtmeister *	–
District Admin. (Intendantur) (HV + DARK GREEN / BRIGHT RED) [2]	–	–
Paymasters (Zahlmeister) (HV – DARK GREEN / WHITE)	–	–
Mil. Admin. (Kriegsverwaltung) (EAGLE + DARK GREEN / LIGHT GREY) [4/5]	Kriegsbetriebsassistent / Kriegs-verwaltungsbetriebsassistent	–
Field Post Office (Feldpost) (FP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT YELLOW) [8]	Feldpostbetriebsassistent [9]	Feldpostbote [9] *
Field Security Police (GFP) (GFP + DARK GREEN / LIGHT BLUE) [10]	–	–
Chaplains (Heeresgeistliche) (VIOLET) [15]	–	–

1 1.5.44 became the TSD Legal Service.
2 1.5.44 became the TSD Administrative Service.
3 Rank held by the commander of army military officials
4 Formed 22.12.39. Renamed Militärverwaltung 16.8.41.
5 All officers had light grey collar patches piped dark green.
6 Renamed Kriegsverwaltungsvizechef 6.4.40.
7 Gold-wire thick guard's braids on collar patch.
8 Light yellow thread on officer's shoulder boards.
9 Light yellow replaced aluminium thread on shoulder boards.
10 Light blue thread on officer's shoulder boards.
11 Held by commander of army and Luftwaffe field police.
12 Held by commander of army field police.
13 The GFP branch symbol should be aluminium, but gilded aluminium was often worn.
14 This rank existed briefly in 1940. Light blue replaced aluminium thread on shoulder boards. Army NCOs and men (usually military police) seconded as auxiliary field police wore the GFP branch symbol on their original uniform.
15 No shoulder boards worn. Rank indicated by collar patches.
16 Thick gold-wire guard's braids on collar patches.
17 Thick silver-wire guard's braids on collar patches.
18 No collar patches.

Technical and senior NCOs carried a pistol in a black holster and NCOs acting as infantry platoon leaders or section leaders wore the same equipment as subaltern platoon leaders, but wore the other ranks' M1939 black leather infantry support Y-straps.

Other NCOs and men wore the standard rifleman's equipment. The black waist belt carried the bayonet, folding shovel, bread bag, canteen and cup. The M1939 infantry support Y-straps and supplementary D-ring straps supported two sets of three black leather M1911 rifle ammunition pouches on the front. On the back it held the M1939 *feldgrau* canvas A-frame, carrying the M1931 dark matt grey (from 23 April 1941 greenish-brown) painted aluminium mess kit (pot and frying pan/lid); the M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter; the greenish-brown canvas battle pack bag, carrying iron rations, eating utensils and other miscellaneous items; and the gas cape strapped to the M1930 gas canister when not worn on the canister shoulder strap.

The equipment worn by the three-man section light machine-gun team is described in Volume 1 (Men-at-Arms 311).

The summer drill uniform

The M1935 field tunic and trousers proved uncomfortably hot for the stifling temperatures encountered from June to August 1941, and so in Summer 1941 many troops adopted as a summer field uniform the M1940 reed-green drill fatigue uniform. This consisted of the off-white cotton herringbone twill tunic, with five buttons and two patch hip pockets, and trousers introduced on 1 April 1933, and from 12 February 1940 manufactured in reed-green. Officers and NCOs added shoulder-strap rank insignia and all ranks wore the breast-eagle. Its popularity led to the manufacture of the M1942 reed-green drill tunic with the same cut as the M1935 field tunic, introduced in early 1942 but not common until summer 1943.

A rather haggard three-man section light machine-gun team pause during street-fighting, August 1942. They are all wearing M1940 reed-green drill uniform as a summer field uniform with breast-eagles and shoulder straps, M1935 helmets and M1939 short-shaft marching boots. The first gunner (first right), wearing his pistol, holster and spares pouch, carries his MG34 machine-gun over his shoulder. The second gunner (first left), whose helmet still bears the tricolour national shield decal ordered removed on 21 March 1940, carries a sheet-metal barrel protector with one or two spare barrels and an ammunition box. The third gunner, with standard rifleman's equipment and more ammunition boxes, waits behind. (Friedrich Herrmann)

Winter clothing

The only issue protective clothing available for the first Soviet winter, from November 1941 to March 1942, consisted of nine uniform items. These were the *feldgrau* tube-shaped woollen balaclava; extra-thick woollen underwear; the M1936 round-neck or V-neck grey-white woollen sweater, introduced 15 March 1936 and replaced by the M1942 high turtle-neck sweater; *feldgrau* woollen mittens; the *feldgrau* sentry's water repellent, ankle-length, six button double-breasted guard coat with reinforced leather shoulders, and felt overshoes; the vehicle crew's M1934 or M1940 *feldgrau* water-repellent surcoat, cut as for the M1935 greatcoat but ankle-length and wide enough to be worn over field equipment; three-fingered fur-lined mittens in *feldgrau* surcoat cloth; and the driver's and motorcyclist's greenish-brown calico fingerless overgloves.

This clothing, whilst sufficient for Central Europe, proved totally inadequate for the eastern front. Many troops improvised with German and Soviet civilian fur coats and captured Red Army fur caps and padded field uniforms, but on 19 April 1942 new white and *feldgrau* fully reversible padded winter overclothing had been approved and was issued from Autumn 1942. This was manufactured in three weights: light – three layers (one thin white cloth and two thick *feldgrau*); medium – four layers (one thin white cloth and two thick *feldgrau*, woollen lining); and heavy – three layers (one white and one *feldgrau* heavy cotton twill with quilted wadding middle layer). The thigh-length six-buttoned hooded winter tunic had two hip pockets, the only permitted insignia being coloured sleeve field signs. There were also reversible high trousers and mittens, but the reversible hood and face-mask and white-webbing snow boots proved unpopular and were often discarded.

Other issue winter clothing consisted of ankle-length sheepskin overcoats without insignia; various styles of white, brown or black sheepskin, rabbit and artificial fur caps with service cap insignia; plain brown quilted jacket and trousers worn over the field uniform and under the greatcoat; and leather reinforced felt calf-boots. Calf-length white cotton camouflage 'snow shirts', originally prescribed for mountain troops, were issued to all branches.

Rank and branch insignia

This is covered in more detail in Volume 1 (Men-at-Arms 311). General officers wore dress quality plaited braids on their shoulder boards with two gold bullion or 'celleon' cords and one bright aluminium cord on a bright red backing. A Generalfeldmarschall had silver crossed marshal's batons (and from 3 April 1941 three gold cords), other ranks 3-0 German silver or white aluminium plated pips, branch and (exceptionally) unit insignia. Field officers had two matt aluminium (later light grey) plaited braids on a branch colour backing and 2-0 gold coloured pips, branch and unit insignia: captains and subalterns had two flat braids.

Veterinary and farrier technical NCOs had distinctive plaited shoulder boards. Senior NCOs wore 3-1 aluminium pips, branch and unit insignia on bluish dark green or *feldgrau* shoulder straps piped in branch colour and edged with M1935 bright aluminium or M1940 mouse-grey artificial silk or cellulose-fibre wool braid, whilst the Hauptfeldwebel (or equivalent) wore two braid sleeve rings. Junior NCOs wore the same shoulder strap with no pips or with a plain base,

with branch and unit insignia in branch-colour chain stitch. NCOs wore special cuff and collar insignia on the reed-green fatigue uniform until 22 August 1942.

Men wore shoulder straps without braid and braid chevrons and/or aluminium pips on a bluish dark green or *feldgrau* shaped patch. On 25 April 1942 an Obergefreiter of two years seniority not suitable for junior NCO rank could be promoted to Stabsgefreiter, designated 'new style' (neuer Art) to distinguish it from the 'old style' Stabsgefreiter (effectively abolished on 1 October 1934) and many, though not all, soldiers ranking as '*Obergefreiter mit mehr als 6 Dienstjahren*' were promoted to this new pay grade.

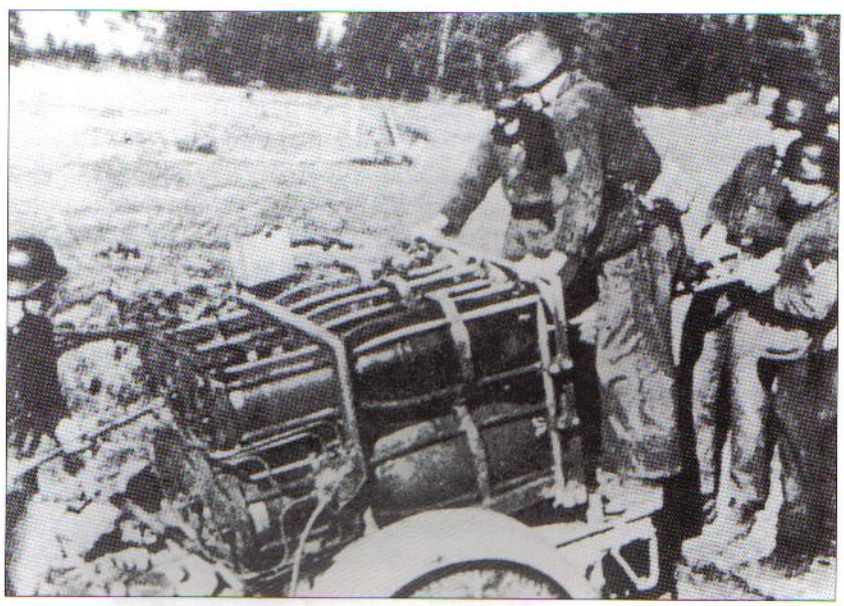
The rectangular gold and green on black rank insignia, introduced on 22 August 1942 for officers and NCOs for wear on white winter tunics, anoraks, shirts and drill tunics, will be described in Volume 4.

A German soldier's branch of service was indicated by a branch-colour facing cloth piping worn on the collar, shoulder board/shoulder straps and on caps and tunics. Sub-branches were indicated by branch insignia, consisting of a symbol or letter worn above the unit insignia – an arabic or latin numeral. From 1 September 1939 all troops in the Field Army on campaign (but not the Replacement Army in Germany) were ordered to remove or conceal their unit insignia, but branch insignia and colours were retained. On 16 May 1941 all officers in combat divisions were ordered to remove the branch insignia from their shoulder boards, but there is evidence that all ranks wore branch and even unit insignia in the field. Some divisions wore coloured shoulder strap loops to designate regiments and battalions, a practice expressly forbidden by the Army High Command.

Special black uniform and insignia for tank crews

Most personnel in Panzer regiments and many on divisional staffs wore the black uniform introduced 12 November 1934, consisting of the helmet or field cap, field jacket and trousers, dark grey shirt, black tie and black lace-up shoes or marching boots (the latter only retained by Armoured Engineer companies after 18 January 1941).

The black M1940 officer's black field cap (with aluminium thread cord crown and front flap piping) and M1940 other ranks' field cap both had the branch-colour chevron removed 10 July 1942. Officers and NCOs also favoured the *feldgrau* officer's M1935 peaked service cap, M1934 peaked field cap or M1938 field cap, or the other ranks' M1935 peaked service cap



A rocket-launcher crew prepare the 28/32cm Nebelwerfer 41 for firing, August 1942. Most of the soldiers are wearing the issue cotton one-piece overalls, unofficially adding rank chevrons. (Friedrich Herrmann)

ARMY GROUP NORTH: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

1: General der Infanterie, XXVI Armeekorps, Lithuania, June 1941.

2: Leutnant, Sturmgeschützabteilung 185, Lake Peipus, Eastern Estonia, August 1941.

3: Stabszahlmeister, 21. Infanterie-Division, Novgorod, North-Western Russia, October 1941.

ARMY GROUP CENTRE: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

1: Hauptwachtmeister, Panzer-Regiment 39, Smolensk, Western Russia, July 1941.

2: Obergefreiter, Infanterie-Regiment 464, Velikiye Luki, Western Russia, August 1941.

3: Kanonier, Nebelwerfer-Regiment 51, Smolensk, Western Russia, August 1941.

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ARMY GROUP SOUTH: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

1: Leutnant, Infanterie-Regiment 230, Stalin Line, Western Ukraine, July 1941.
2: Oberschütze, Infanterie-Regiment 203, Tiraspol, Bessarabia, August 1941.
3: Hilfswilliger, 13 Panzer-Division, Rostov, Southern Russia, November 1941.

EASTERN FRONT: DECEMBER 1941–MARCH 1942.

1: Feldwebel, Infanterie-Division 270, Leningrad, Northern Front, December 1941.

2: Schütze, Infanterie-Regiment 413, Kalinin, Central Front, December 1941.

3: Schütze, Infanterie-Regiment 117, Donets Basin, Southern Front, January 1942.

ARMY GROUP NORTH: APRIL 1942–JANUARY 1943

1: Jäger, Gebirgsjäger-Regiment 141, Murmansk, Northern Russia, April 1942.

2: Obergefreiter, Pionier-Bataillon 123, Demyansk, Northern Russia, May 1942.

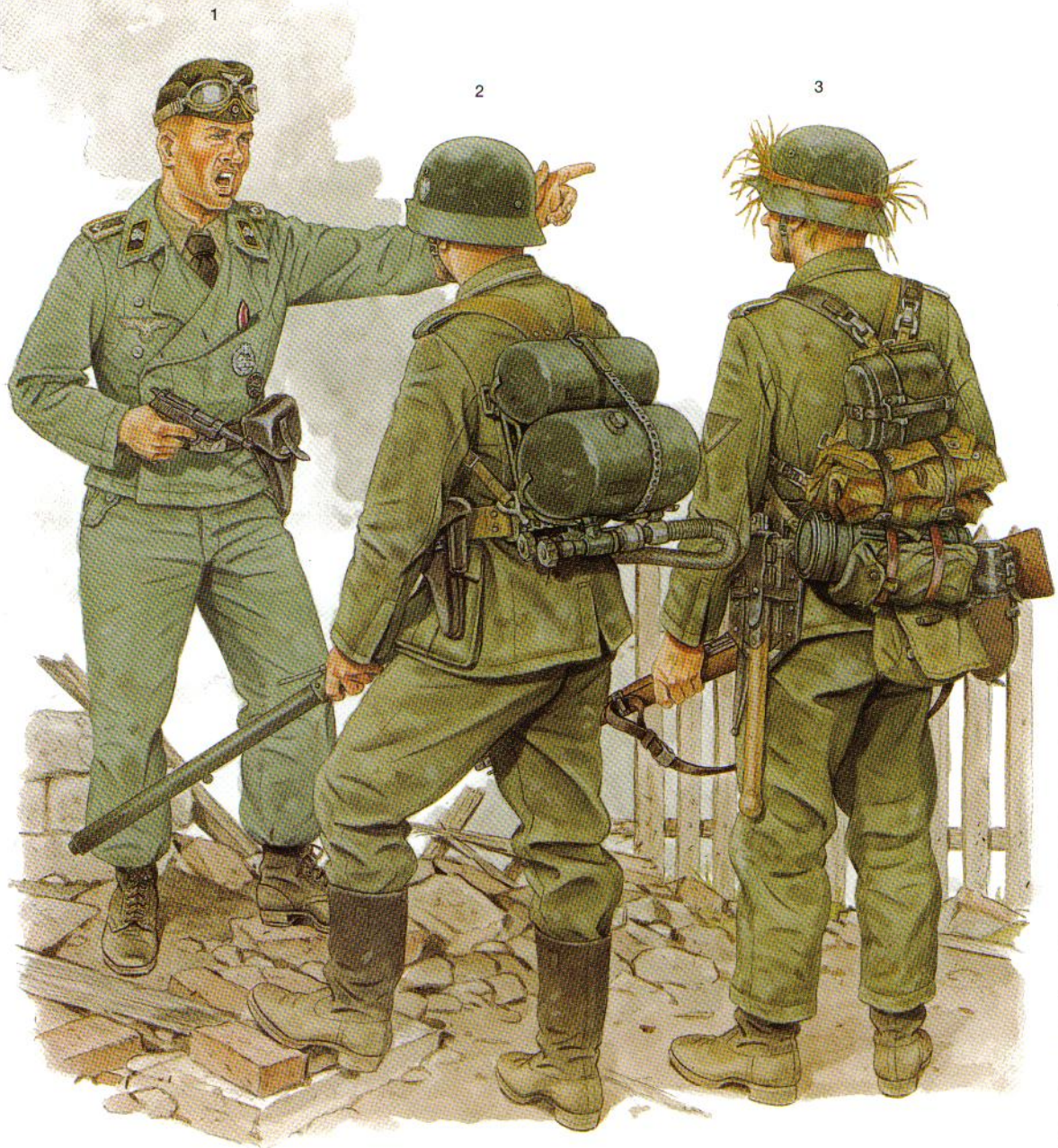
3: Felduntervetеrinär, Veterinär-Kompanie 181, Staraya Russa, Northern Russia, September 1942.

ARMY GROUP CENTRE: APRIL 1942–JANUARY 1943

1: Wachtmeister, Panzernachrichtenabteilung 92, Orel, Western Russia, August 1942.

2: Unteroffizier, Pionier-Bataillon 267, Spass-Demensk, Western Russia, September 1942.

3: Gefreiter, Infanterie-Regiment 235, Rzhev, Western Russia, September 1942.



SOUTHERN FRONT: APRIL–AUGUST 1942

1: Unteroffizier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 108, Kalmuck Steppes, North-Eastern Caucasus, August 1942.

2: Dolmetscher (Z), Georgische Infanterie-Bataillon 796, Maikop, North-Western Caucasus, September 1942.

3: Zugführer, Georgische Infanterie-Bataillon 796, Maikop, North-Western Caucasus, September 1942.

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BATTLE OF STALINGRAD: AUGUST 1942–FEBRUARY 1943

1: Gefreiter, Grenadier-Regiment 544, December 1942.

2: Generaloberst Friedrich Paulus, 6. Armee, January 1943.

3: Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 79, January 1943.

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Occasionally the 28cm, heavy, high-explosive rocket shells, each weighing more than 80kg, had to be manhandled, and muscular 'farm boys' such as this soldier were needed. He is wearing the issue cotton one-piece coveralls in *feldgrau* with a breast pocket and a thigh pocket over his field uniform but unusually has not added any insignia. August 1942. (Friedrich Herrmann)

or M1934 field cap. A black wool version of the M1942 other ranks' field cap saw limited issue.

The M1934 black wool double-breasted field jacket had a wide collar with pink branch-colour piping and four large buttons. The M1936 jacket added three small buttons and three corresponding lapel buttonholes. In late 1942 the collar was narrowed and the piping abolished. All ranks wore the black rectangular collar patch piped in pink branch colour with aluminium skull recalling the tank units of the Great War.

24th Panzer Division Staff, formed 28 November 1941 from 1st Cavalry Division, and its Panzer Regiment and Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, retained the golden yellow cavalry branch colour. Panzer division anti-tank battalions and probably armoured train platoon crews (30 October 1941–26 June 1942) wore the pink branch colour; the Führer Escort Battalion Tank Company and Armoured-Car Platoon, white (from 1 April 1941); Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion staffs and Armoured-Car Company crews golden yellow; Armoured Engineer companies, white and black; and Armoured Signals battalions lemon yellow.

From 1941 armoured-vehicle crews and mechanics, and armoured artillery and rocket-launcher crews were issued cotton one-piece overalls in mouse-grey, *feldgrau*, off-white, light brown and reed-green (sometimes dyed black by Panzer crews). Troops usually added shoulder strap and sleeve rank insignia and a breast-eagle – the order of 22 August 1942 requiring the new sleeve rank insignia for all ranks was widely ignored. Overalls commandeered from Germany's defeated enemies between 1939 and 1941, and captured items of British and Soviet clothing were also worn.

On 5 May 1941 crews of Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion armoured-car companies were issued special clothing as a fatigue and summer field uniform in reed-green cotton herringbone twill or white or mouse-grey cotton designed to be worn over the black uniform, and this soon replaced the unpopular overalls. It consisted of a jacket, cut like the M1936 black jacket but with seven small buttons and one internal breast pocket, with black uniform collar patches and shoulder straps (in theory replaced on 22 August 1942 by sleeve rank insignia) the breast-eagle on a uniform-colour backing, and no collar piping. The trousers were cut like the M1934 black trousers. This popular uniform was officially extended to all crews wearing the black uniform in 1942.

Special field-grey uniform and insignia

On 29 May 1940 a special *feldgrau* version of the black Panzer field uniform was authorised for crews of the self-propelled guns of assault-artillery battalions, extended on 26 June 1942 to all battalion personnel. Headgear consisted of the officer's M1938 field cap, other ranks' M1934 or M1942 field cap, or steel helmet (the M1941 *feldgrau* padded beret was withdrawn 15 January 1941). The field jacket was cut like the M1936 black jacket and officially without branch-colour collar piping, the trousers like the M1934 black trousers, and the Panzer grey shirt, black tie and black lace-up boots were worn.

Normally Panzer-style *feldgrau* rectangular patches piped in bright red facing cloth with a bright aluminium stamped Panzer skull were worn, but in 1942 Panzer troops objected to assault artillery units wearing the traditional Panzer skull. Initially the assault artillery troops

simply removed the skull, but on 30 January 1943 other ranks were ordered to wear M1940 mouse-grey standard guard's braids on a *feldgrau* backing sewn onto the rectangular collar patches piped in the bright red branch colour, whilst officers reverted to their M1935 matt aluminium guard's braids collar patches with bright red branch-colour centre cords on bluish dark green patches. Rank insignia and breast-eagles were as for the infantry field tunic.

A detail of three soldiers are carrying food, distributed by the company field kitchen, universally nicknamed the *Gulaschkanone* ('gulash cannon'), back to their section in battered M1931 mess kits and canteens during Army Group B's ill-fated advance to the Volga in August 1942. The men wear M1935 steel helmets and M1940 field tunic and trousers. The Schütze in the centre wears the matt aluminium braid NCO Candidate loop on his shoulder straps, a MP38/40 ammunition pouch for a submachine-gun in his belt, and an unofficial scarf against the dust. (Brian Davis)

The practical and stylish special field-grey uniform was soon extended rather haphazardly to units in Panzer divisions not entitled to, or with some personnel already wearing, the black Panzer uniform. These units wore the M1940/M1943 collar patches described above, with the appropriate branch colour. In 1941 some armoured engineer vehicle crews adopted this uniform with the black branch colour superseding the M1940 black and white. From 1942 self-propelled anti-tank units wore it with pink branch colour, whilst some units in Panzer divisions wore it with black Panzer collar patches piped pink. From 26 June 1942 Armoured Train Platoon crews wore it with pink branch colour, and from late 1942 some self-propelled armoured artillery units with bright red.

Troops entitled to the special field-grey uniform also wore the reed-green fatigue and summer field uniform with appropriate branch insignia.

Special uniforms and insignia for other branches

General staff officers wore dark bluish green collar patches with two matt aluminium *Kolben* pattern guard's braids and general officer's trouser and breeches pipings and braids in crimson branch-colour facing cloth. Officers attached to the OKW and OKH wore gold *Kolben* braids and crimson stripes until 16 November 1942, when they were ordered to wear the uniform of their original branch.

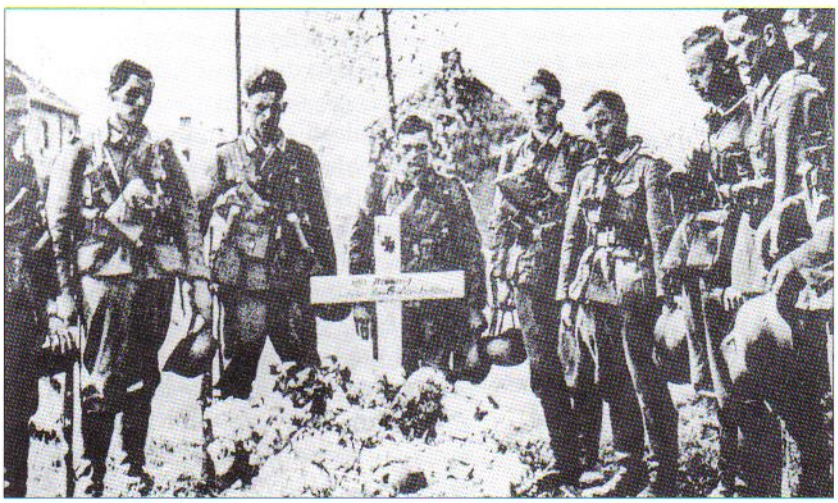
Two Terek or Kuban Cossacks from a mounted reconnaissance company (Sotnia) attached to a German Panzer division, wearing the traditional low-crowned black fur *Kubanka* caps with a red (Terek) or blue (Kuban) crown and unofficial German Panzer collar-patch skulls, carry a wounded Don Cossack, wearing a high-crowned black fur *Papacha* fur cap with a German officer's breast-eagle as a cap badge, to a German field dressing station, in July 1942. The Cossack (first right) wears a German M1940 field tunic with the shoulder straps removed, his comrade (first left) a M1929 Red Army khaki *gymnastiorka* tunic, breeches and riding boots, with a Karabiner 98k rifle slung over his right shoulder and his traditional Cossack *shashqa* sword hanging from a shoulder belt over his left. The wounded man also wears an M1929 *gymnastiorka* with a German other ranks' black belt. (Author's collection – see also Men-at-Arms 131, *Germany's Eastern Front Allies*)

A carefully posed photograph of a Feldwebel platoon leader of mechanised infantry in September 1942, wearing a M1935 helmet showing the Wehrmacht eagle decal abolished 28 August 1943, a M1940 other ranks' field tunic with M1940 *feldgrau* guard's braids collar patches and mouse-grey NCO collar and shoulder strap braid. He carries his platoon leader's map case, 6 x 30 binoculars and MP38 submachine-gun. He has the Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon, 1st Class pin-back medal, bronze Wound badge for one or two wounds and the bronze Tank Combat badge, awarded from 1 June 1940 to tank-associated units. (ECPA)

The élite mountain troops, largely recruited from Austria, wore a white aluminium *edelweiss* with gilt stamens above the cockade of the peaked service cap. They wore infantry field uniform with, from 2 May 1939, a bluish dark green (from May 1940 *feldgrau*) oval badge depicting a machine-woven white *edelweiss* with yellow stamens and light green stem and leaves within a mouse-grey rope on the right upper sleeve of tunics and greatcoats. Mountain troops also wore M1935 stone-grey or M1939 *feldgrau* ski trousers with *feldgrau* ankle-puttees and brown or black climbing-boots, the M1925 greenish-khaki wind-jacket, M1938 reversible anorak and M1931 canvas rucksack.

The mountain troops' M1936 peaked mountain cap, introduced 11 February 1936, had on the left side (from 2 May 1939 but not actually issued until October 1939) a white aluminium *edelweiss*, stem and leaves with gilt stamens (later grey and yellow): Austrian personnel often added a bluish dark green backing. The 1st Pattern eagle and cockade cap badge (15 March 1935) was in white aluminium; the 2nd Pattern (11 February 1936) in white embroidery on a stone-grey T; the 3rd Pattern (19 June 1937) on a bluish dark green cloth T; and the 4th Pattern (5 February 1939) mouse-grey insignia on a *feldgrau* cloth T. Officers adopted aluminium (general officers gold) crown and front flap pipings on 3 October 1942.

The Rifle (Jäger) divisions and independent rifle battalions, formed from 2 October 1942 as lightly equipped mobile units for combat in hilly terrain, wore mountain troops' uniforms with three bright or grey aluminium oak leaves on the left side of the mountain cap, and a machine-embroidered or a machine-woven bluish dark green or *feldgrau*



The days of easy German victories are now over. A rifle section in field uniform with full rifleman's equipment, stands around the grave of a dead Unteroffizier, possibly the former section leader, the cross decorated with an Iron Cross, his name, and the defiant dedication *'gefallen für Großdeutschland'* ('fallen for Greater Germany'). August 1942. (Friedrich Herrmann)

A Ukrainian ex-Red Army soldier employed as an auxiliary (*Hilfswilliger*) in a German division, September 1942. He wears a German other ranks' M1935 field cap without insignia or branch-colour chevron, the M1940 field tunic, still with the original collar patches showing M1940 *feldgrau* guard's braids, but with the shoulder straps removed. His status is indicated by the home-made white armband with non-standard black '*Im Dienst der deutschen Wehrmacht*' lettering. Against Hitler's instructions he has been issued a rifle for sentry duty. Relatively few Ukrainians joined the Osttruppen, most being directed to auxiliary Schutzmannschaften battalions under the German police. (Brian Davis)

oval sleeve badge with a green, grey or white rope edging and three light green oak leaves.

The Großdeutschland Motorised Regiment, from 12 March 1942 a motorised division, wore the GD shoulder board/strap monogram (introduced 20 June 1939) and, from 7 October 1940, the 3rd Pattern black right cuff title with a hand- or machine-embroidered aluminium thread cursive Großdeutschland cuff title and edging. 1st and 2nd Infantry regiments (renamed 1 October 1942 respectively 'Grenadier' and 'Fusilier' Regiment) wore a one or two below the shoulder strap monogram. The Divisional Anti-Aircraft Battalion wore on the right upper sleeve a bluish dark green facing cloth oval with a woven bright red winged shell. From 7 October 1940 Großdeutschland personnel forming the Führer Escort Battalion wore a golden yellow (or silver-grey thread) machine-embroidered, machine-woven or hand-embroidered gothic script '*Führer-Hauptquartier*' and edging on a black wool title on the left cuff.

271st Infantry Regiment personnel, partly formed from volunteers from the SA (Storm Troops) Guard Regiment Feldherrnhalle, wore from 9 August 1942 a woven brown title on the left cuff with an aluminium or mouse-grey cursive Feldherrnhalle and edging. Sonderverband 287 personnel probably continued to wear the Orientkorps oval arm-shield issued in 1942 in North Africa.

From 6 January 1942 until 10 January 1944 technical troops wore a bluish dark green facing colour oval with a mouse-grey woven (bright aluminium for officers) TN monogram on a cogwheel within an oak wreath on the right upper sleeve.

Uniforms and insignia of Sonderführer

On mobilisation (26 August 1939) NCOs and men with specialised technical and linguistic skills but without the necessary military training could be promoted to NCO and officer supervisory positions as 'specialist officers' (Sonderführer). They wore the uniform of their original branch with special rank insignia (see Table 1). Field officers had bright or matt aluminium plaited, captains and subalterns flat, thin thread shoulder boards with gold artificial silk 'slides', whilst NCOs had bluish dark green flat thread shoulder boards with bright aluminium thread 'slides'. 'Group O' personnel wore the Hauptfeldwebel cuff braids and medical and veterinary shoulder board and cuff speciality insignia.

In order to distinguish them more clearly from qualified officers and to encourage them to complete officer training, Sonderführer officers were required to wear on 21 March 1940 new shoulder boards with red-white-black threads with white aluminium rank pips on a grey-blue facing cloth backing. The grey-blue collar patches had a matt aluminium wire hand-embroidered pentangular *altpreußisch* braid on a grey-blue collar which was never manufactured, necessitating the use of Luftwaffe grey-blue cloth from 11 July 1941. The M1935 service cap band and breast-eagle backing was grey-blue, as were the service cap pipings and M1938 field cap inverted chevron. On 7 December 1942 Sonderführer officers reverted to the M1939 rank insignia and a new aluminium wire chin cord with grey-blue threads introduced. NCO uniforms and insignia were unchanged with the addition of aluminium NCO collar braid on 21 March 1940.

Uniforms and insignia of army officials

The German army entrusted administrative duties, which in most armies would be carried out by service personnel, to 'Officials' (Beamte), state civil servants employed by the army with limited authority over service personnel. Officials were recruited into four careers according to their educational qualifications: Senior – post-16 and university education; Advanced and Intermediate – former Senior NCOs with two years' training at service colleges; and Basic – former junior NCOs and men with minimal training.

There were about 80 branches, but Table 2 lists the seven branches whose members usually operated with the field army on campaign, and although these officials were anxious to preserve their privileged civil service status, they were increasingly militarised and Court Martial officials (lawyers), District Administration (accountants) and Paymaster officials (unit paymasters) were in May 1944 reorganised into the 'Special Troop Service' (Truppensonderdienst). Military Administration officials operated in occupied territories: the Field Post Office ran Divisional Mail offices; the Field Security Police carried out field security and counter-espionage duties in occupied territories; and Protestant and Catholic chaplains were attached to divisional staffs.

Officials wore army service, walking-out and field uniforms. The M1935 service cap and M1934 'old style' field cap pipings (crown and lower cap band pipings gold for general officer equivalents) and (since 24 October 1939) M1938 officer's and M1935 other ranks' field cap inverted chevrons (removed 10 July 1942) were in dark green facing colour. General officer equivalents wore dark green general's trouser stripes and greatcoat lapel linings. Later in the war officials unofficially wore élite unit cuff titles and black or field-grey special uniforms. The chaplains' uniform will be covered in Volume 5.

Field tunic collar patches were bluish dark green with branch-colour piping on the top, bottom and back. General officer equivalents had a bright gold bullion or yellowish-gold 'celleon' hand-embroidered thread two-leaf *Alt-Larisch* design; Senior Career officials had two matt gold wire *Kolben* pattern guard's braids; Advanced Career officials had two hand-embroidered matt aluminium guard's braids with dark green silk-embroidered centre cords; Intermediate Career officer equivalents were as for Advanced Career, then from 10 April 1940 two thin hand-embroidered matt aluminium guard's braids; and Intermediate and Basic Career Senior NCO equivalents had two thin *feldgrau* guard's braids with bluish dark green (from 9 May 1940 mouse-grey) centre stripes and dividing stripe and no NCO collar braids.

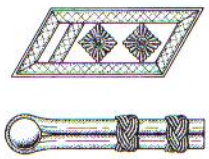
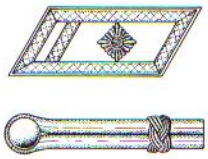
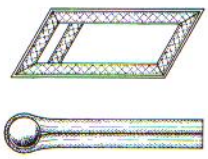
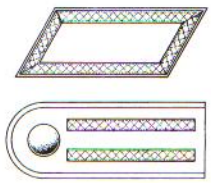
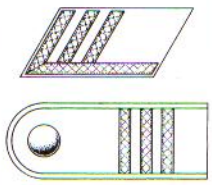
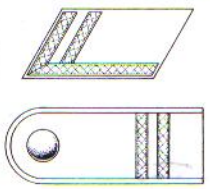
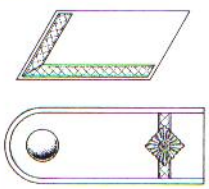
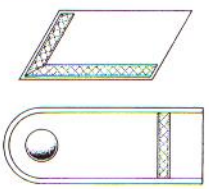
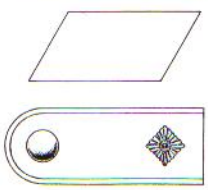
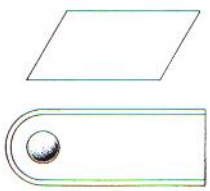
Shoulder boards usually had the HV monogram (Heeresverwaltung, or Army Administration) and rank pips in gilded aluminium (white for general officer and NCO equivalents), a branch-colour inner and dark green outer underlay. General officer equivalents had general's shoulder boards with dark green silk threads in the silver centre cord; other officer equivalents had a dark green cord dividing the bright or matt aluminium shoulder cords; Senior NCO equivalents had shoulder cords similar to technical NCOs, with two dark green wool cords separated by a bright aluminium thread cord.

Personnel with specialised skills but without the necessary educational qualifications could become War-Substantive officials

A fine study of a mechanised infantry Leutnant issuing instructions with his signal-whistle, attached to his right breast pocket button by a red plaited lanyard. He wears a M1940 other ranks' field tunic with a bluish dark green collar and M1936 officer's matt aluminium braid collar patches with grass-green branch-colour centre cords and officer's M1935 matt aluminium thread breast-eagle on a bluish dark green facing cloth backing. He wears grey leather gloves, a captured Red Army M1940 fur cap, other ranks' black belt and a P08 Luger in a black hardshell holster, and the Knight's Cross neck decoration. (Author's collection)

TABLE 3: RANK INSIGNIA OF THE EASTERN LEGIONS
24 APRIL 1942–8 MAY 1945

The positional rank titles are shown in Russian (the working language within the legions) transliterated from Russian Cyrillic, and German (the language of command). All ranks wore red (from 17.11.42 dark bluish-green piped in legion colour) collar patches with bright aluminium braid and pips. Officers had thin bright aluminium Sonderführer shoulder boards with gold braid knots (later sometimes unofficially gold-coloured aluminium German officer's pips). Other ranks had dark bluish-green facing colour (later grey-green uniform colour) shoulder straps piped in red (from 27.11.42 in legion colour) with bright aluminium braid bars and (from 1.1.44) pips. On 29.5.43 conventional Russian rank titles were introduced. From 18.3.44 qualified personnel could wear German collar insignia and shoulder rank insignia but virtually no troops were considered suitable. The German cadre wore German uniforms and insignia with the legion arm badge.

				
Komandir batal'ona [1] Bataillonsführer (Hauptmann)	*Komandir roty* Kompanieführer (Oberleutnant)	*Pomoshchnik komandir roty* [2] Stellvertretender Kompanieführer (Leutnant)	*Komandir vzvoda* [3] Zugführer (Oberfeldwebel)	*Pomoshchnik komandir vzvoda* [4] Stellvertretender Zugführer (Feldwebel)
Mayor (Major)	*Kapitan* (Hauptmann)	*Poruchik* (Oberleutnant)	*Podporuchik* (Leutnant)	*Fel'dfebel'* [4/5] (Feldwebel)
Aluminium collar edging, with 1 bar and 2 pips. Aluminium shoulder board with 2 knots.	Aluminium collar edging with 2 pips. Aluminium shoulder board with 1 knot.	Aluminium collar edging with 1 pip. Aluminium shoulder board.	Aluminium collar edging. Shoulder strap with 2 bars.	Aluminium V collar edging with 2 bars. Shoulder strap with 3 bars.
				
Komandir otdeleniya [4] Gruppenführer (Unteroffizier)	–	*Pomoshchnik komandir otdeleniya* Stellvertretender Gruppenführer (Gefreiter)	–	*Legioner* Legionär (Soldat)
Unter-ofitser [4] (Unteroffizier)	*Ober-Yefreytor* [6] (Obergefreiter)	*Yefreytor* (Gefreiter)	*Ober-Legioner* [6] (Oberlegionär)	*Legioner* (Legionär)
Aluminium V collar edging with 1 bar. Shoulder strap with 2 bars.	Aluminium V collar edging. Shoulder strap with 1 bar and 1 pip.	Aluminium V collar edging. Shoulder strap with 1 bar.	Plain collar patch. Shoulder strap with 1 pip.	Plain collar patch and shoulder strap.

1 This rank was never held.
2 Rank first mentioned 2.6.42.
3 Originally an NCO rank this became an officer rank 29.5.43.
4 NCOs holding the appointment of *Khaupt-Fel'dfebel'* (Hauptfeldwebel) wore two aluminium braid sleeve rings.
5 The rank of *Ober-Fel'dfebel'* (Oberfeldwebel) was introduced 15.6.44; rank insignia unknown but probably identical to German Oberfeldwebel.
6 Introduced 1.1.44.

(Beamte auf Kriegsdauer), wearing insignia very similar to their army Sonderführer equivalents.

Uniforms and insignia of European volunteers

European volunteers wore German uniforms and insignia and a black machine-woven arm shield, with name of the country of origin above the national flag, also a decal depicting the flag on the right side of the steel helmet.

From 9 July 1941 Spanish troops wore a yellow 'ESPAÑA' and a red-yellow-red horizontally striped flag arm shield on the right upper sleeve and a helmet shield, whilst Falange militiamen retained their blue shirt. Croatian troops wore the greenish-grey M1941 Croatian field tunic with German collar patches and rank insignia and a red 'HRVATSKA' above a red–white chequerboard flag arm shield on the right (for many officers on the left) upper sleeve, helmet shield, German greatcoats, and the Croatian army peaked field cap and service cap and cap badges.

French volunteers wore a white 'FRANCE' and a blue-white-red horizontally striped flag shield on the right upper sleeve and a helmet shield. Walloon troops wore from 29 August 1941 a yellow 'WALLONIE' above a black-yellow-red vertically striped flag shield on the left upper sleeve, from March 1942 also a helmet shield and from May 1942 wore a mountain field cap, *edelweiss* cap and right upper sleeve badges and light green branch colour.

Infantry huddle in a trench awaiting the signal to attack, September 1942. Clearly visible are the M1931 mess tin and M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter strapped to the Y-straps, M1930 gas mask canisters and M1931 canteen and cup. The Oberfeldwebel in the foreground is carrying field equipment in a wartime version of the M1931 water-repellent greenish-brown canvas rucksack normally issued to mountain troops. (Friedrich Herrmann)

Uniforms and insignia of Osttruppen

Initially Hiwis wore Red Army uniforms with the insignia removed and from 1 October 1941 the '*Im Dienst der deutschen Wehrmacht*' ('Under German armed forces command') armband. German other ranks' field uniforms without cap badges, collar patches, shoulder straps or breast-eagles were officially sanctioned on 29 April 1943 but were almost certainly issued unofficially before that date.

It is unlikely that Osttruppen units, first organised in October 1941, could have functioned effectively without proper insignia, and therefore it can be assumed that the German orders issued in August 1942 and 29 May 1943 confirmed practice dating back to late 1941 and January 1943 respectively. It should also be noted that German Cadres retained their original uniforms with Osttruppen arm shields, whilst native officers and other ranks wore German other ranks' uniforms.

From April 1942 the Eastern legions wore German breast-eagles and the collar patch and shoulder board/strap rank insignia shown in Table 3. From September 1942 each legion was indicated by a Tsarist Russian-style two or three ringed coloured oval cap cockade (scalloped outer edge for officers); collar patch and shoulder strap piping, and a shield on the right upper sleeve (illustrated in Volume 5).

Two infantrymen wait in a slit-trench reinforced with wooden logs, on the Volkhov front, May 1942. Both soldiers wear the M1935 steel helmet with rubber camouflage band and the M1940 field tunic and *feldgrau* trousers, and the M1939 short-shaft marching boots. The bespectacled Schütze in the foreground carries his rolled-up camouflage shelter-quarter on an improvised strap over his right shoulder and holds a folding entrenching tool in his left hand, whilst the Obergefreiter in the background, wearily awaiting a Soviet attack, is wearing the bronze Crimea Campaign shield and the M1939 Infantry Assault badge, awarded for at least three infantry assaults on separate days. (Brian Davis)

Armenian Legion – Golden yellow (inner)/dark blue/red (outer) cockade and striped shield, golden yellow piping.

Azerbaijan Legion – green/red/blue cockade and striped shield, green piping.

Georgian Legion – black/white/red cockade and striped shield, red piping.

North Caucasian Legion – white/orange/ cockade, brown piping, blue shield/white device, 1943 red/green shield/white device.

Turkestan Legion – red/blue cockade, light blue piping, white and dark green oval shield, 1943–4 red/blue shield/white device.

Volga–Tartar Legion – blue green cockade and piping, blue/green shield white device (later modified), finally blue oval/yellow device.

In Autumn 1941 Estonian units wore M1936 Estonian army uniforms and insignia; from about April 1942 German uniforms with eastern legion collar rank insignia and rank titles; and from about May 1942 German infantry uniforms, cap badges, collar patches, breast-eagles and rank insignia. From about April 1942 other security and eastern battalions wore eastern legion collar and shoulder rank insignia, from 15 November 1942 a bluish dark green oval cap badge with a horizontal red bar and the 'Eastern' breast-eagle (mouse-grey machine-embroidered swastika on mouse-grey and *feldgrau* horizontal wings). In January 1943 ROA cap badges, collar patches, Tsarist-style shoulder rank insignia and arm shield were introduced (see Volume 4).

Cossack units, especially cavalry, often retained their traditional uniforms, often with Tsarist shoulder board rank insignia, but in about April 1942 Eastern Legion collar patch and shoulder board/red piped strap rank insignia and rank titles were introduced for those wearing German uniforms. The 15 November 1942 order introduced a bluish dark green oval cap badge with a horizontal red bar over white crossed lances, Eastern breast-eagle, white crossed lances on red collar patches edged bluish dark green (officers – bright aluminium German NCO braid) and arm shields indicated the Cossack territorial affiliation: Don, yellow/blue/red horizontally striped; Terek, black/green/red horizontally striped; and Kuban Cossacks, yellow/green diagonally quartered. NCOs (Zugführer–Gruppenführer) wore German NCO collar braid. In January 1943 ROA rank insignia was introduced.

Medals and awards

The principal medal for bravery and leadership in the front line remained the Iron Cross in two classes – 2nd Class and 1st Class – followed by five classes of 'Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross', usually given to officers: basic, with oak leaves; with oak leaves and swords (21 June 1941); with oak leaves, swords and diamonds (15 July 1941); and the Grand Cross – a courtesy award given to Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering on 19 July 1940. On 28 September 1941 the German Cross in gold was instituted to rank between the Iron Cross 1st Class and the

The Germans designated the nationalities of the Eastern Legions as Moslem 'Turkish peoples', but the Armenians and Georgians comprised ancient Christian communities. Hasmik Nasarian, a corporal (Gruppenführer) in the Armenian Legion, is wearing the M1942 field cap with the distinctive two-buttoned ear flap with (against regulations) an officer's golden-yellow/dark blue/red legion cockade with scalloped outer edge. He has an other ranks' M1935 field tunic with bluish dark green collar and bright aluminium NCO braid stitched to a red Security Battalion collar patch, altered 17 November 1942 to a dark bluish-green patch piped in the golden-yellow legion colour. The M1940 *feldgrau* shoulder straps are piped in golden-yellow. (Author's collection)

Knight's Cross. The War Merit Cross was instituted on 18 October 1939 with or without swords for bravery or leadership away from the front line, greater merit earning from 19 August 1940 the Knight's Cross of the War Merit Cross, with or without swords, worn on the collar.

From 18 July 1941 the army Anti-Aircraft badge, a grey aluminium Wehrmacht eagle, 88mm Flak 18 anti-aircraft gun and wreath badge worn on the left breast pocket, was awarded for service in army anti-aircraft or searchlight batteries.

Troops who had fought for 14 days in the Soviet Union between 15 November 1941 and 15 April 1942 were awarded the silver and black 'Eastern Winter Campaign 1941–2' medal, nicknamed the 'frozen meat order'. The 'Driver's Service' badge, a steering-wheel in a laurel wreath in bronze, silver or gold and worn on the left cuff, was instituted on 23 October 1942 to dispatch-riders or motor-vehicle drivers (including Hiwis) who had served in the field since 1 December 1940.

Two new grey metal campaign shields, worn on the upper left arm, were instituted during this period, although it is doubtful if any were worn in the field before February 1943. On 1 July 1942 the white metal 'Kholm Shield', depicting a Wehrmacht eagle clutching an Iron Cross, was awarded to troops who had served in the Kholm pocket in Northern Russia from 21 January to 5 May 1942. The bronze 'Crimea Shield' featuring an eagle over the Crimean peninsula and worn on a uniform-coloured cloth backing, was instituted on 25 July 1942 for troops serving there for three months between 21 September 1941 and 4 July 1942.

The 'Special badge for single-handed destruction of a tank' was instituted on 9 March 1942 and made retrospective to cover all such actions by troops other than anti-tank units using small-arms since 22 June 1941. It took the form of a black Soviet T-34 tank on a silver cord rectangle with upper and lower black edging worn on the right upper sleeve, and a gold cord badge as awarded for five tanks destroyed.

On 14 July 1942 the 'Eastern Medal' was instituted for Osttruppen and their German cadres and featured a stylised shining sun, awarded for good service, with crossed swords added for bravery. The 1st Class in gold or silver was worn on the left breast pocket, the 2nd Class hung from a ribbon: green and red for the gold award; green and white for silver; plain green for bronze. Osttruppen were also eligible for German decorations.

Although the Sonderverband Bergmann was primarily composed of Caucasians, all ranks wore German mountain troops' uniforms (omitting the *edelweiss* cap and arm badges) with normal German insignia. Leutnant Tataschvili, a Georgian officer, wears the M1936 mountain cap with the black and silver Caucasian *kindjal* dagger worn by all ranks, and an ill-fitting other ranks' M1935 field tunic with bluish dark green collar and M1938 other ranks' 'standard' bluish dark green collar patches with two *feldgrau* guard's braids with bluish dark green centre stripes. He wears German shoulder boards, probably with a light green mountain troops' underlay, and carries 6 x 30 platoon leader's binoculars. (Author's collection)

TABLE 4: SELECTIVE LIST OF BRANCH AND UNIT INSIGNIA OF UNITS ON THE EASTERN FRONT
22 JUNE 1941–2 FEBRUARY 1943

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern front	Central front	Southern front	
Combat Troops – Staff (Kommandobehörde)					
General Officers (Generale)	Bright red	None	None	None	*Larisch* patches
General Staff (Generalstab) officers	Crimson	None	None	None	Silver *Kolben* patches
5 Army Group (Heeresgruppe) Staffs	White	G (Nord)	G (Mitte)	G (Süd/B, A, Don)	–
9 Army (Armee) Staffs	White	A / 11, 16, 18, (Lappland)	A / 2, 4, 9	A / 2, 6, 11, 17	–
1 Mountain Army (Gebirgsarmee) Staff	Light green	A / 20	–	–	*Edelweiss* badges
4 Armoured Group (Panzergruppe) Staffs	Pink	? (4)	? (2, 3, 4)	? (1)	–
4 Armoured Army (Panzerarmee) Staffs	Pink	–	A / 2, 3, 4	A / 1, 4	–
33 Corps (Korps) Staffs (* Corps had Latin numbers)	White	1, 2, 10, 23, 26, 28, 30, 38, 42, 50, 54	5–9, 12–3, 20, 23, 27, 30, 34–5, 43, 50, 53, 59	4, 7–8, 11, 13, 17, 29, 30, 42, 44, 51–2, 54–5	–
5 Mountain Corps (Gebirgskorps) Staff *	Light green	18–9, 36 (Norwegen)	–	49	*Edelweiss* badges
12 Motorised Corps (Korps (mot.)) Staffs *	White	39, 41, 56	24, 27, 39, 40–1, 46–8, 56–7	3, 14, 48	–
11 Armoured Corps (Panzerkorps) Staffs *	Pink	–	39, 41, 46–7, 56	3, 14, 24, 40, 48, 57	–
2 Reserve (Reserve) Corps Staffs *	White	61	–	62	–
Combat Troops – Infantry (Infanterie)					
147 Infantry (Infanterie) Division Staffs	White	1, 5, 7, 11–2, 17, 21, 23–4, 28, 30, 32, 58, 61, 67, 69, 81, 83, 93, 96, 121–3, 126, 131–2, 163, 169–170, 206, 212, 215–8, 223, 225, 227, 229, 251, 253–4, 269, 285, 290–1, 329, 385	5–8, 15, 17, 23, 26, 28, 31, 34–5, 45, 52, 56, 72, 78, 83, 86–8, 95, 98, 102, 106, 110, 112,129, 131, 134, 137, 161–3, 167, 181, 183, 197, 205–6, 208, 211, 216, 221, 246, 251–3, 255–6, 258, 260, 262–3, 267–8, 286, 292–3, 296, 299, 328, 330–1, 337, 339, 342, 385, 707	5, 9, 22, 24, 28, 44–6, 50, 56–7, 60, 62, 68, 71–3, 75–6, 79, 82, 88, 94–5, 98–9, 111, 113, 125, 132, 164, 168, 170, 196, 198, 213, 221, 239, 257, 262, 294–9, 305, 323, 335–6, 340, 370–1, 376–7, 383–5, 387, 389	–
440 Line Infantry (Infanterie) Regts	White	1–539 series	14–747 series	14–546 series	–
440 Line Infantry (Grenadier) Regts	White	1–539 series	14–747 series	14–546 series	–
7 Line Infantry (Füsilier) Regts	White	22, 26–7	34, 39	202, 230	–
8 Motorised (Inf.(mot.)) Division Staffs	White	3, 18, 20, 36	3, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 25, 29, 36	3, 16, 25, 29	–
20 Motorised (Infanterie (mot.)) Regts – from 15.10.42 (Grenadier (mot.))	White	8, 29, 30, 51, 69, 76, 87, 90, 118	8, 11, 15, 20, 29, 30, 35, 41, 51, 53, 60, 69, 71, 76, 86–7, 90, 118–9, 156	8, 15, 29, 35, 60, 71, 119, 156	–
1 Motorised (Inf.(mot.)) Division GD	White	–	GD	GD	Großdeutschland title
2 Motorised Regts Großdeutschland	White	–	GD/GD1, GD2	GD1, GD2	Großdeutschland title
4 Light Infantry (leichte Infanterie) Div.	Light green	8	–	97, 100–1	
8 Light Infantry (leichte Infanterie) Regts	Light green	28, 38	–	54, 204, 207, 227–9	

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern front	Central front	Southern front	
7 Rifle (Jäger) Div. Staffs	Light green	5, 8, 28,	–	28, 97, 100–1,	Jäger badges
14 Rifle (Jäger) Regts	Light green	28, 38, 49, 56, 75, 83	–	49, 54, 83, 204, 208, 227–9	Jäger badges
7 Mountain (Gebirgs) Division Staffs	Light green	2–3, 5–7	–	1, 4	*Edelweiss* badges
15 Mountain (Gebirgs) Regts	Light green	85, 100, 136–9, 141, 143–4, 206, 218	–	13, 91, 98–9	*Edelweiss* badges
4 Reserve (Reserve) Division Staffs	White	141, 151	–	143, 153	–
11 Reserve Inf. (Reserve Grenadier) Regts	White	1, 2, 61, 206, 217	–	23, 68, 76, 208, 218, 257	–
5 Training (Feldausbildungs) Div. Staffs	White	388	390–1	381–2	–
16 Training (Feldausbildungs) Regts	White	639, 640	635–7, 718–20	381, 614–20	–
1 Special Unit (Sonderverband)	Light green	–	–	Bergmann	*Kindjal* cap badge
Combat Troops – Mobile Troops (Schnelle Truppen)					
1 Cavalry (Kavallerie) Division Staff	Gold-yellow	–	1	–	–
3 Mounted Cavalry (Reiter) Regts	Gold-yellow	–	1, 2, 22	–	Cavalry breeches/boots
1 Armoured (Panzer) Division Staff	Gold-yellow	–	–	24	Black Panzer uniform
1 Armoured (Panzer) Regt.	Gold-yellow	–	–	24	Black Panzer uniform
22 Armoured (Panzer) Division Staffs	Pink	1, 6, 8, 12	1–7, 9–12, 17–20	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 22–3, 27	Black Panzer uniform
22 Armoured (Panzer) Regts	Pink	1, 10–1, 29	1, 3, 6–7, 11, 15, 18, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 39	2, 4, 6, 15, 33, 36, 39, 127, 201, 204	Black Panzer uniform
19 Motorcycle Recce (Kradschützen) Bns	Brown	1, 6, 8, 22	1–3, 6–7, 17–9, 20, 22, 34, 59, 61	3, 16–7, 23–4, 43, 59, 61, 64, GD	–
21 Armd Recce (Panzeraufklärung) Bns	Pink	1, 12, 57, 59	1–7, 9–12, 17–19	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 23–4	Black Panzer uniform
44 Motor Rifle (Schützen) Regts	Grass green	1, 4, 5, 8, 25, 28, 113–4	1–7, 10–4, 25, 33, 40, 52, 59, 63, 69, 73–4, 86,1 01, 110–4, 304, 394	3, 10–1, 21, 26, 40, 63–4, 66, 79, 93, 103, 108, 110–1, 126, 128–9, 140, 394	–
41 Mechanised (Panzergrenadier) Regts	Grass green	1, 4, 5, 8, 25, 28, 113–4	1–7, 10–4, 25, 33, 40, 52, 63, 69, 73–4, 86, 101, 110–1 ,113–4, 304, 394	3, 10–1, 21, 26, 40, 63–4, 66, 79, 93, 103, 108, 110–1, 126, 128, 140, 394	–
158 Div. Recce (Divisionsaufklärung) Bns	Gold-yellow	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	–
8 Motorised Recce (Aufklärung (mot.)) Bns	Gold-yellow	A / 18, 20, 36, 53	A / 14, 18, 20, 25, 29, 36, 53, 341	A / 18, 25, 29, 341	–
8 Mtn. Recce (Gebirgsaufklärung) Bns	Gold-yellow	A / 67, 12, 67, 95, 99, 112	–	A / 54,94	*Edelweiss* badges
182 Antitank (Panzerjäger) Bns	Pink	P / 1–385 div. series	P / 1–385 div. series, GD	P / 1–385 div. series, GD	–
8 Motorised AT (Panzerjäger (mot.)) Bns	Pink	P / 3, 18, 20, 36	P/ 3, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 25, 29, 36	P / 3, 16, 25, 29	–
6 Mtn. Anti-tank (Gebirgspanzerjäger) Bns	Pink	P / 47–8, 95, 99	–	P / 44, 94	*Edelweiss* badges

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern front	Central front	Southern front	
Combat Troops – Artillery (Artillerie)					
158 Artillerie (Artillerie) Regts	Bright red	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	–
8 Mot. Artillery (Artillerie (mot.)) Regts	Bright red	3, 18, 20, 36	3, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 25, 29, 36	3, 16, 25, 29, GD	–
6 Mount. Artillery (Gebirgsartillerie) Regts	Bright red	82, 95, 111–2, 118	–	79	*Edelweiss* badges
23 Armd Artillery (Panzerartillerie) Regts	Bright red	1, 6, 8, 12	1–7, 9–12, 17–20	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 22–3, 27	Black Panzer uniform
6 Rocket Launcher (Werfer) Regts	Bord. red	–	–	51–5, 70	–
Combat Troops – Engineers (Pioniere)					
167 Engineer (Pionier) Bns	Black	1–385 series	1–385 divisional series, GD	1–385 divisional series, GD	–
6 Mount. Engineer (Gebirgspionier) Bns	Black	8–3, 91, 95, 99	–	54	*Edelweiss* badges
23 Armd Engineer (Panzerpionier) Regts	Black	1, 6, 8, 12	1–7, 9–12, 17–20	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 22–3, 27	Black Panzer uniform
Combat Troops – Signals (Nachrichtentruppe)					
167 Signals (Nachrichten) Bns	Lemon yellow	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series, GD	1–385 divisional series, GD	–
6 Mount. Signals (Gebirgsnachrichten) Bns	Lemon yellow	8–3, 91, 95, 99	–	54	*Edelweiss* badges
23 Armd Engineer (Panzerpionier) Regts	Lemon yellow	1, 6, 8, 12	1–7, 9–12, 17–20	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 22–3, 27	Black Panzer uniform
10 War Correspondent (Propaganda) Coys	Lemon yellow	501, 621, 680	612, 698–9	637, 649, 666, 698	PK cuff title
Supply Troops (Versorgungstruppen)					
158 Div. Supply (Nachschubführer) Cdrs	Light blue	D / 1–385 div. series	D /1 385 divisional series, GD	D /1–385 div. series, GD	–
7 Mtn. Div. Supply (Nachschubführer) Cdrs	Light blue	D / 8–3, 91, 95, 99	–	D / 54, 94	*Edelweiss* badges
8 Mot. Div. Supply (Nachschubführer) Cdrs	Light blue	D / 3, 18, 20, 36	D /3, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 25, 29, 36	D / 3, 16, 25, 29, GD	–
Armd Div. Supply (Nachschubführer) Cdrs	Light blue	1, 6, 8, 12	1–7, 9–12, 17–20	3, 9, 11, 13–4, 16–7, 22–3, 27	Black Panzer uniform
450? Motor Transport (Nachschub) Cols	Light blue	N / 1–385 divisional series, GD	N / 385 divisional series, GD	N/1–385 divisional series, GD	–
316? Horse Transport (Nachschub) Cols	Light blue	N / 1–385 series	N / 385 divisional series, GD	N/1–385 divisional series, GD	–
Medical Corps (Sanitäts) officers	Dark blue	Gold aesculapius staff	Gold aesculapius staff	Gold aesculapius staff	Red Cross armband
158 Horse Medical (Sanitäts) Coys – men	Dark blue	1–385 series	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	Red Cross armband
7 Mtn Med. (Gebirgssanitäts) Coys – men	Dark blue	8–3, 91, 95, 99	–	54, 94	*Edelweiss* badges
32 Mot. Medical (Sanitäts) Coys – men	Dark blue	1–36 divisional series	1–36 divisional series, GD	3–29 divisional series, GD	–
Veterinary Corps (Veterinär) officers	Crimson	Gold snake	Gold snake	Gold snake	Cavalry breeches

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern front	Central front	Southern front	
158 Veterinary (Veterinär) Coys – men	Crimson	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	1–385 divisional series	Cavalry breeches
Security Troops (Sicherungstruppen)					
13 Army Rear Area Commanders (Korück)	White	525, 583–4	532, 559, 582, 590	351, 550, 553, 580, 585, 593	–
5 Distr. Commds (Oberfeldkommandantur)	White	392, 394, 396	–	393, 579	–
198 MP (Feldgendarmerie) Troops	Orange	1–36 divisional series	1–36 divisional series, GD	3–29 divisional series, GD	Sleeve badge, cuff title
9 Security (Sicherungs) Division Staffs	White	207, 281, 285	221, 286, 403	213, 444, 454	–
17 Security (Sicherungs) Regts	White	3, 94, 107, 113	2, 45, 61, 122, 601, 608, 613	4, 57, 177, 318, 360, 375	–
Foreign Troops					
1 Spanish (Spanische) Infantry Div. Staff	White	D / 250	–	–	Spanish arm badge
3 Spanish (Spanisches) Infantry Regts	White	262–3, 269	–	–	Spanish arm badge
1 Croatian (Kroatisches) Infantry Regt.	White	–	–	369	Croatian arm badge
1 French (Französisches) Infantry Regt.	White	–	638	–	French arm badge
1 Walloon (Wallonische) Infantry Bn.	Light green	–	–	373	Belgian arm badge
48 Eastern (Ost) Bns	White	653, 658–669	82, 134, 229, 264, 406, 412, 427, 439, 441, 446–8, 601–5, 615–21, 627–30, 633–7, 642	556	–
4 Armenian Ostlegion Bns	Gold-yellow	–	I/125	II/9, 808–9	Armenian arm badge
5 Azeri Ostlegion Bns	Green	–	–	I/73, I/111, 804–6	Azeri arm badge
5 Georgian Ostlegion Bns	Red	–	I/9 (Geb)	II/4 (Geb), I/9, 795–6	Georgian arm badge
3 North Caucasian Ostlegion Bns	Brown	–	–	800–2	North Caucasian badge
11 Turkestani Ostlegion Bns	Light blue	–	–	8(Fz), 11(Fz), 156B, I/370, 450, 452, 781–2, 811, 1000–1 Geb Tr	Turkestan arm badge
10 Volga–Tartar Ostlegion Bns	Blue/Green	–	–	–	Volga–Tartar badge
3 Cossack (Kosaken) Infantry Regts	Red	–	6, 7	5	Cossack arm badge
6 Cossack (Kosaken) Infantry Bns	Red	126	622–5,631		Cossack arm badge
3 Cossack (Kosaken) Cavalry Regts	Red	–	–	Platow, Jungschultz, Pannwitz	Cossack arm badge
11 Cossack (Kosaken/Ostreiter) Cavalry Bns	Red	207	281, 443, 580, 600	403/I–IV/444, I–II/454	Cossack arm badge
Army Officials (Heeresbeamten)					
216 Field Post (Feldpost) Offices	Lemon yellow	Fp (1–385 div. series)	Fp (1–385 div. series)	Fp (1–385 div. series)	–
39 Field Security Police (GFP) Groups	Light blue	GFP (501–735 series)	GFP (570–729 series)	GFP (560–740 series)	–

THE PLATES

A. ARMY GROUP NORTH: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

A1. General der Infanterie, XXVI Armeekorps, Lithuania, June 1941. This 18th Army general wears the eight-buttoned M1920 service tunic with bluish dark green M1935 collar, and gold general officer's buttons, collar patches, breast-eagle and red breeches' stripes. His M1934 'old-style' peaked field cap has a soft peak, bright aluminium woven insignia and general officer's gold piping. He carries a Walther PPK 7.65mm pistol and short design 10 x 50 binoculars and wears the Knight's Cross, Iron Cross 1st Class pin-back medal and the 1914 Iron Cross 2nd Class ribbon with 1939 bar.

A2. Leutnant, Sturmgeschützabteilung 185, Lake Peipus, Eastern Estonia, August 1941. This commander of a platoon of three assault-artillery self-propelled guns wears the M1940 special *feldgrau* uniform, with the 1st pattern collar patches worn until 30 January 1943, and the M1938 officer's field cap with silver crown and front flap piping and branch-colour chevron. He carries a P08 Luger in a hard-shell holster and wind protection goggles and wears the Iron Cross 1st Class pin-back medal, Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon, the General Assault badge and silver Wound badge for three or four wounds.

A3. Stabszahlmeister, 21. Infanterie-Division, Novgorod, North-Western Russia, October 1941. This military official serving as regimental paymaster wears the officer's field uniform with officer's M1935 field tunic without spurs. His M1935 service cap has officials' dark green pipings, and his dark green collar patches have white branch-colour piping. As a non-combatant he has earned the War Merit Cross 2nd Class with swords button ribbon and Silver 1st Class with swords pin-back medal, but his black wound badge indicates one or two wounds, and he is armed with a P38 Walther pistol in a hardshell holster.

B. ARMY GROUP CENTRE: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

B1. Hauptwachtmeister, Panzer-Regiment 39, Smolensk, Western Russia, July 1941. This company sergeant-major wears his cuff rings on the M1935 special black tank crew uniform with the M1936 jacket buttoned up against the dust. He wears a privately purchased M1935 other ranks' service cap with the steel crown ring removed to give it a more battered look, an unofficial practice favoured by NCOs. He has a silver Tank Combat badge, carries a P08 Luger pistol and has 'acquired' better quality motorcycle goggles.

B2. Obergefreiter, Infanterie-Regiment 464, Velikiye Luki, Western Russia, August 1941. This section first gunner wears the still predominant M1935 other ranks' field tunic and rank chevrons with M1938 shoulder straps. He carries the M1935 helmet with M1931 *feldgrau* canvas bread bag straps, securing leaves and undergrowth for camouflage, and

All German infantry, mountain infantry, rifle and security divisions were heavily dependent on horse transport. Here a farrier corporal (Beschlagschmiedoberjäger), identifiable by his bluish dark green facing-cloth trade badge with a golden-yellow wool horseshoe trade badge, with a bright aluminium cord inner edging to indicate he is confirmed in post in a battalion smithy, repairs a cartwheel. He wears a M1940 other ranks' field tunic with M1935 shoulder straps and M1939 mountain troops *edelweiss* arm badge. September 1942. (ECPA)

wears the M1934 field cap with infantry branch-colour chevron, M1940 *feldgrau* trousers and the shorter shaft marching boots introduced 9 November 1939 to save leather. He carries the 7.92mm IMG34 general purpose light machine-gun with a P38 Walther pistol for close combat and a MG34 spares pouch.

B3. Kanonier, Nebelwerfer-Regiment 51, Smolensk, Western Russia, August 1941. Occasionally rocket-launcher troops were required to manhandle the 28-cm heavy high-explosive rocket shell. This gunner wears the issue cotton one-piece coveralls in *feldgrau* over his field uniform and has unofficially added M1940 *feldgrau* shoulder straps piped in bordeaux-red branch colour and the M1940 mouse-grey machine-embroidered breast-eagle. He has removed the national shield from the left side of the helmet following the order of 23 March 1940 but retains the Wehrmacht eagle on the left side (obscured here). His M1934 field cap has a branch-colour chevron.

C. ARMY GROUP SOUTH: JUNE–NOVEMBER 1941

C1. Leutnant, Infanterie-Regiment 230, Stalin Line, Western Ukraine, July 1941. This subaltern platoon leader

wears the other ranks' field uniform with M1940 tunic with Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon and silver Infantry Assault badge, unofficially adding the officer's collar, M1935 collar patches and breast-eagle. He has other ranks' M1940 trousers, pre-war long-shaft marching boots and a rubber bicycle inner-tube camouflage band around his M1935 helmet, also the M1920 'officer's support straps' with more practical buckles, M1935 dispatch case and 1st pattern M38/40 ammunition pouches concealing his P38 Walther hardshell holster, 6 x 30 binoculars, and MP40 submachine-gun.

C2. Oberschütze, Infanterie-Regiment 203, Tiraspol, Bessarabia, August 1941. This senior infantryman wears the M1940 field tunic and M1940 *feldgrau*-backed rank star, M1940 *feldgrau* trousers and M1939 short-shaft marching boots. He carries rifleman's equipment with standard Karabiner 98k rifle, still obediently wearing his gas-cape pouch on his chest, and has thrust a M1924 stick-grenade in his belt.

C3. Hilfswilliger, 13 Panzer-Division, Rostov, Southern Russia, November 1941. This volunteer retains the Red Army M1935 khaki infantry field uniform with a brownish-grey greatcoat, *gymnastiorka* tunic, breeches and marching boots, and M1940 fur cap. He has removed his tunic and greatcoat collar patches and red star cap badge, and wears the arm band prescribed for armed auxiliaries and an unofficial identification cap patch. Although officially non-combatant he has the German other ranks' belt and M1911 rifle ammunition pouches, M1931 bread bag and carries the obsolete Karabiner 98b rifle issued to second-line troops.

D. EASTERN FRONT: DECEMBER 1941–MARCH 1942.

D1. Feldwebel, Infanterie-Division 270, Leningrad, Northern front, December 1941. This senior NCO platoon leader wears the standard winter field uniform which proved inadequate for the eastern front – the M1935 other ranks' greatcoat, still common in 1941, a *feldgrau* tube-shaped woollen balaclava under his helmet and possibly extra underwear. He wears other ranks' M1939 infantry support Y-straps and supplementary D-ring straps, platoon leaders' issue 6 x 30 binoculars and 1st pattern MP38/40 ammunition pouches for his MP40 submachine-gun.

D2. Schütze, Infanterie-Regiment 413, Kalinin, Central front, December 1941. This sentry wears a M1934 other ranks' field cap with pulled down flaps, a woollen balaclava, and a M1941 surcoat with a wide *feldgrau* collar and shoulder straps and woollen lining, cut to go over field equipment, introduced in November 1941 for sentries but issued rapidly to combat troops. He wears three-fingered mittens, carries the Karabiner 98k rifle and has slipped his marching boots into the flimsy 1st Pattern straw overboots for static sentry duty.

D3. Schütze, Infanterie-Regiment 117, Donets Basin, Southern front, January 1942. This soldier, preparing for a trench raid, wears the M1940 other ranks' field greatcoat and woollen balaclava, but has cut down bed sheets to improvise a snow-camouflage tabard and a helmet cover. He has limited himself to essential field equipment and carries a Karabiner 98k rifle, a M1924 stick-grenade in his belt, and has constructed a 'concentrated charge' (*geballte Ladung*) from six M1924 stick-grenade heads wired around a single stick-grenade.

E. ARMY GROUP NORTH: APRIL 1942–JANUARY 1943

E1. Jäger, Gebirgsjäger-Regiment 141, Murmansk, Northern Russia, April 1942. This mountain infantryman wears the M1936 mountain cap, with M1939 insignia and unofficial bluish dark green 'Austrian' *edelweiss* backing, the infantry field tunic, M1940 *feldgrau* ski trousers and ankle-puttees and studded climbing boots. The M1931 reversible dark/light camouflage shelter-quarter, in thickly woven, water resistant impregnated material, could be buttoned to form a one, four or eight man tent, or worn as rain protection or camouflage clothing. This soldier carries the Gewehr 33/40 short carbine issued from 16 November 1940 to mountain troops.

E2. Obergefreiter, Pionier-Bataillon 123, Demyansk, Northern Russia, May 1942. This assault engineer wears his M1940 reed-green drill fatigue uniform as a summer field uniform, retaining M1935 rank chevrons and adding a breast-eagle, and has a mosquito net over his helmet. He wears the 'engineer assault pack', introduced 27 March 1941 – a greenish-brown canvas back-pack for two 3-kg explosive charges and two side bags for gas mask, demolition charges and grenades, with small pouches for rifle ammunition clips, and P38 Walther pistol. He carries M1924 stick-grenades, a M1935 first-pattern anti-tank mine and an MP38 submachine-gun.

E3. Feldunterveterinär, Veterinär-Kompanie 181, Staraya Russa, Northern Russia, September 1942. This young veterinary student seconded to 81st Infantry Division's veterinary company wears the mounted troops' field uniform with officer's and other ranks' insignia and crimson branch

An infantry section waits in a trench before the advance on Stalingrad, September 1942. They are wearing M1935 helmets coated in mud for camouflage and M1940 other ranks' field greatcoats and rifleman's equipment strapped to the M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter. Especially prominent are the M1931 mess tin, canvas battle bag, M1931 canteen with black-painted cup, M1931 bread bag and gas mask canister. (Brian Davis)

colour. He wears the M1935 peaked officer's service cap and the M1940 other ranks' field tunic with officer's M1935 collar patches and breast-eagle and M1940 Oberfeldwebel shoulder straps with the matt aluminium Veterinary Academy 'A' monogram. He has reinforced riding breeches, riding boots with spurs, a brown officer's belt and P38 Walther pistol in a hardshell holster.

F. ARMY GROUP CENTRE: APRIL 1942–JANUARY 1943

F1. Wachtmeister, Panzernachrichtenabteilung 92, Orel, Western Russia, August 1942. This armoured signals battalion NCO wears the M1941 reed-green drill tank crew fatigue and summer uniform with M1935 black uniform shoulder straps and collar patches and breast-eagle. He also wears the M1935 black uniform grey shirt, black tie and ankle-boots and M1940 other ranks' black field cap with the lemon-yellow branch-colour chevron ordered removed on 10 July 1942. He has wind-protection goggles, a P38 Walther in a hardshell holster, and the silver Tank Combat and bronze Wound badges.

F2. Unteroffizier, Pionier-Bataillon 267, Spass-Demensk, Western Russia, September 1942. A grey leather two-piece protective suit was prescribed for flame-thrower personnel in January 1940 but was not actually worn in combat, and so this NCO wears the normal M1940 field uniform with M1939 short-shaft marching boots. He carries the standard M1941 flame-thrower, introduced spring 1942, with petrol canisters strapped to his M1939 Y-straps and D-ring straps, and for personal protection the P08 Luger in a hardshell holster.

F3. Gefreiter, Infanterie-Regiment 235, Rzhev, Western Russia, September 1942. This front-line infantryman has adapted his uniform and equipment to his personal requirements. For comfort or coolness he wears his trousers over his marching boots and for camouflage has painted out the left side eagle helmet-decal, anticipating the 29 August 1943 order. On the waist belt he carries the folding shovel in the 1st model carrier, bread bag, canteen and cup, and on the M1939 A-frame a greenish-brown painted mess kit; battle-pack bag and shelter-quarter; and gas-cape pouch strapped with rubber inner tubing to the M1930 gas mask canister. He carries the 1941 model Karabiner 98k rifle.

G. SOUTHERN FRONT: APRIL–AUGUST 1942

G1. Unteroffizier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 108, Kalmuck Steppes, North-Eastern Caucasus, August 1942. This section leader wears standard infantry M1940 field uniform with M1940 grass-green shoulder strap piping, 'standard braid' collar patches, mouse-grey breast-eagle, Iron Cross 2nd Class button ribbon and bronze Tank Combat badge instituted on 1 June 1940 for tank-associated units. He wears M1940 *feldgrau* trousers and anklets with lace-up ankle-boots, anti-dust goggles, has cut shelter-quarter material to form a makeshift camouflage cover for his M1935 steel helmet, and carries a flashlight and two 1st pattern MP38/40 ammunition pouches for his MP40 submachine-gun.

G2. Dolmetscher (Z), Georgische Infanterie-Bataillon 796, Maikop, North-Western Caucasus, September 1942. This Russian (or less likely Georgian) interpreter attached to a Georgian Legion battalion wears other ranks' M1940 field tunic with distinctive Sonderführer M1940 collar patches and shoulder board and the non-combatant War Merit Cross 2nd Class button ribbon but has not yet received the new legion arm-shield. He also has M1940 *feldgrau* trousers and M1939 short-shaft other ranks' marching boots. His M1935 officer's service peaked cap has grey-blue pipings and a Luftwaffe grey-blue uniform-cloth cap band, and he wears an officer's belt, dispatch case and P08 Luger in a hardshell holster.

G3. Zugführer, Georgische Infanterie-Bataillon 796, Maikop, North-Western Caucasus, September 1942. This Georgian platoon leader wears the M1940 other ranks' field tunic with bluish dark green collar, red M1942 rank insignia collar patches, *feldgrau* shoulder straps with legion piping and M1942 rank insignia, German M1940 mouse-grey breast-eagle and new legion arm shield. He wears a plain M1935 steel helmet, M1940 trousers, M1939 short-shaft marching boots, other ranks' belt and Y-straps, M1931 water bottle and cup and M1931 bread bag, and, as a platoon leader, carries 6 x 30 binoculars but has only been issued the Karabiner 98k rifle and M1911 rifle ammunition pouches.

H. BATTLE OF STALINGRAD: AUGUST 1942–FEBRUARY 1943

H1. Gefreiter, Grenadier-Regiment 544, December 1942. As the second gunner of a section light machine-gun team this infantryman wears rifleman's equipment with a P38 Walther pistol replacing his left ammunition pouches and carries a 300-round machine-gun ammunition box, but no spare machine-gun barrels. He wears the M1942 field cap with flaps pulled down, the wide collared M1942 field greatcoat, woollen gloves and wool rags around his marching boots for warmth and carries a M1924 stick-grenade and, unusually, a Karabiner 98k.

H2. Generaloberst Friedrich Paulus, 6. Armee, January 1943. Paulus wears a general officer's M1935 service peaked cap with pre-16 November 1942 silver insignia in non-regulation bluish dark green backed bullion, a M1935 field tunic with Knight's Cross and general officer's collar patches, a M1935 officer's field greatcoat with general officer's bright red lapels, officer's grey suede gloves and a Walther PPK pistol. Promoted to field marshal on 31 January 1943 on the assumption that German field marshals never surrendered, Paulus promptly did so, indicating his promotion in Soviet captivity with a fourth shoulder board pip.

H3. Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 79, January 1943. The mechanised infantry received the M1942 white/*feldgrau* reversible winter overclothing in late 1942. This soldier wears a red recognition field sign, woollen balaclava and leather-reinforced felt boots and a helmet painted white. He carries his gas-mask container across his shoulder, a bread bag on the back of his waist belt with a Red Army magazine pouch for his Soviet PPSh41 submachine-gun, and wears woollen gloves instead of the warmer less functional three-fingered mittens. His 'short shovel' is blade-up in his belt for heart protection or easy access for close combat.

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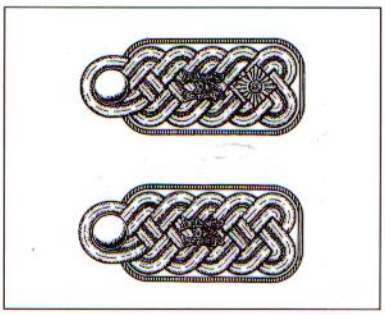

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ISBN 1-85532-795-3

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